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HOUSTON FLOOD



Floodwaters flood Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church in Houston on Aug. 27, 2017. What was once Hurricane Harvey has inundated large swaths of the city and southeast Texas since it made landfall on the state's Gulf Coast. Photo courtesy of Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church

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VOL 2535 • AUGUST 31, 2017
ISSUE 1030

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LGBT Relief Funds Launched to Help Texas Hurricane Victims

BY LOU CHIBBARO JR., WASHINGTON BLADE

Houston's LGBT community center on Monday launched a special relief fund to help LGBT people who are among the thousands of people in Houston and surrounding jurisdictions who have lost their homes over the past few days to catastrophic flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey.

"The catastrophic and historic impact of Hurricane Harvey will be felt by the LGBTQ community of Houston, Texas, for days, months, and potentially years to come," the Montrose Center said in a statement.

"Help our LGBTQ community members displaced by the storm today by giving to the LGBTQ Disaster Relief Fund, managed by the Montrose Center – Houston's LGBTQ counseling and community center serving Houston for 39 years," the statement says.

According to the statement released on Aug. 28, money raised through the relief fund would be used to help individuals and families "begin to rebuild their lives through counseling, case management, direct assistance with shelf stable food, furniture, housing and more."

In a related development, the Transgender Foundation of America, a Houston-based transgender services and advocacy organization founded in 1998, announced it had organized a separate disaster relief fund to "assist Gulf Coast trans, intersex, and genderqueer survivors recover" from Harvey and its related flooding.

"The Transgender Foundation of America created this disaster relief fund because trans, intersex, and genderqueer individuals have historically experienced significant difficulties in natural disaster situations," a statement released by the group says. "This fund will be used to help our historically underserved community recover from this catastrophic event," it says.

The creation of the two disaster relief funds came at a time when officials in Houston and many other areas of southeast Texas reported that a never-before-seen volume of rainfall rather than the usual high winds associated with a hurricane caused massive damage from flooding in high population centers, especially those in Houston.

See Houston Flood, page 13

\aut\ BAR Vandalized in Ann Arbor

Community Raises More than \$13,000 to Support LGBTQ Safe Space

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Keith Orr, co-owner of the \aut\ BAR, posted a message Aug. 25 on Facebook stating that their "safe space has been attacked" at 315 Braun Court in Ann Arbor. He owns the bar with his husband, Martin Contreras. He explained that their rainbow flag, lights, wires, fascia board and rainbow streamers had all been ripped down sometime after 2:45 a.m. when bartenders left the bar on Friday morning.

"I guess that's OK in Trump's America," wrote Orr. "Or at least people feel like they've been given permission to do stuff like this."

Orr speaks to the real damage beyond the monetary damage which will only cost a few hundred dollars to repair.

"Right now I feel violated. I hope the community also feels violated because this wasn't an attack on Martin or me. This was an attack on our community," he said.

Their principle mission has always been to provide a safe space for the LGBTQ community. \aut\ BAR opened 22 years ago and is a part of what Orr refers to as "Gay Central." The couple also own Common Language Bookstore next door, and next to that, a building rented by the Jim Toy Community Center.

Many members of the community have come forward to offer help and support to include elected officials like State Rep. Yousef Rabhi.

"I stopped by to give him a hug and support them during this difficult time. I encourage others in the next few weeks to go down to \aut\ BAR and show their support," said Rabhi, who set up a GoFundMe fundraising page to help with repairs and to stand with the LGBTQ community. More than \$13,000 has been raised beyond the \$2,000 goal.

"It has been such a pleasure to get the tremendous outpouring of support. We have always said that the primary mission of the \aut\ BAR is to provide a safe space for the LGBTQ community," said Orr, adding that "anything above the actual cost of repairs will be donated to the Jim Toy Community Center and Common Language Bookstore, two important institutions in our community."

Rabhi confirmed Mayor Christopher Taylor called in from out of town to offer his support. Law enforcement came out to the establishment after the cleaning crew discovered the damage around 6 a.m. Friday morning. Ann Arbor Police Department's



A photo of the vandalism at \aut\ BAR in Ann Arbor on Aug. 25. Photo courtesy of bar's co-owner Keith Orr

Lieutenant Matthew Lige said he has limited information to elaborate on at this early stage of the investigation.

"A report was filed Friday. A detective was assigned Monday morning. There are no leads or developments right now," said Lige.

While the building has been defaced a few times in the past, Orr confirmed vandalism to this extreme is a first.

Michigan had the highest number of bias crimes in the Midwest post-election, according to a report in November 2016 by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

This year, bias crimes toward marginalized communities specifically in Ann Arbor have been reported by MLive.

On Aug. 10, Concordia University employees found racial slurs spray painted onto the running track.

On Aug. 18, vandals spray painted racial slurs and swastikas at the skate park at Veteran's Park.

On Aug. 22, there was a bomb threat at

the Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County.

Rabhi said members of the community have been sensitive to this uptick in bias crimes, more so in the aftermath of Charlottesville, Virginia.

"But we live in an inclusive community. There has been an upswell of support from the LGBTQ community and allies," he said. "We stand in solidarity against these unacceptable attacks. Times like these demand unity and numbers to not only denounce the actions but also stand with those targeted."

A statement from the JTCC reads: "We are lucky to live in a community that rejects this type of bigotry and intolerance, and to have elected officials and community members who quickly rally behind us. As history has shown us, when the LGBTQ community is attacked, we come back stronger and more unified. Now is a time to support one another. Hate will not prevail."

The community can engage further on \aut\ BAR's Facebook page. \aut\ BAR is open for business. For more information, visit www.autbar.com.

2017 a Mixed Bag for State Legislatures on LGBT Issues

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

With state legislative sessions wrapped in just about every state – including two sessions to pass anti-trans legislation in Texas if you count the general session and the special session – 2017 proved a mixed bag on LGBT-related bills across the country.

In Texas, transgender rights supporters thwarted an attempt by state leaders to enact legislation that would have barred transgender people from using the restroom consistent with their gender identity.

However, Texas – along with Alabama and South Dakota – enacted laws allowing taxpayer-funded adoption agencies to deny placements in homes based on religious objections, which could result in discrimination against LGBT families.

On the pro-LGBT side, four states – Connecticut, Nevada, New Mexico and Rhode Island – enacted legislation barring the widely discredited practice of “ex-gay” conversion therapy for youth. But states also rejected efforts to advance LGBT non-discrimination protections, including New Hampshire, where a bill to expand the gay-only human rights law to cover transgender people was tabled on the House floor.

Eunice Rho, advocacy and policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, told the Washington Blade activity at the state level “wasn’t as damaging as it could have been” on LGBT issues this year.

“I don’t think a single anti-trans bill about public accommodations passed this session, which was really heartening and also we didn’t see bills like the RFRA or FADA pass at the state level, too,” Rho said.

Amanda McLain-Snipes, director of advocacy programs at the Equality Federation, said LGBT advocates “were quite successful in stopping harmful legislation” initiated by opponents of LGBT rights.

“The most recent evidence of that being Texas where they tried to pass anti-transgender legislation during their regular session, were unsuccessful, called a special session and were unsuccessful again,” McLain-Snipes said. “And that’s even in a state like Texas, and so it gives us cause for celebration.”

In Texas, the anti-trans bathroom bill was defeated despite a massive push from Republican lawmakers and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who made passing the measure a top legislative priority.

Lawmakers sought to pass a bill that would undercut city ordinances barring anti-trans discrimination in bathrooms and locker rooms and prohibit transgender people from using the



Clockwise from upper left, Gov. Brian Sandoval (R-Nevada) signed an “ex-gay” therapy ban, Gov. Greg Abbott (R-Texas) signed an anti-LGBT adoption bill, Gov. Roy Cooper (D-N.C.) signed an HB2 deal and Gov. Susana Martinez (R-N.M.) signed an “ex-gay” therapy ban. (Sandoval photo public domain; Abbott photo by Gage Skidmore courtesy Flickr; Cooper photo by RadioFan courtesy Wikimedia Commons; Martinez photo by Steve Terrell courtesy Wikimedia Commons)

restroom in government buildings and schools consistent with their gender identity.

In the general session, the measure died after the House and the Senate couldn’t agree on the exact form the legislation would take. After that session ended, trans rights advocates thought they were in the clear, but Gov. Greg Abbott called for a special session to ensure anti-trans legislation would reach his desk.

Nonetheless, although the Senate passed a measure, lawmakers didn’t follow suit in the House, where House Speaker Joe Straus opposed the measure. The special session ended last week without an anti-trans measure reaching the governor’s desk.

The Texas measure failed after a massive outcry from transgender advocates, business leaders and law enforcement officials. CEOs from 51 Fortune 500 companies publicly

denounced the bill, 20 of which were based in Texas. The Dallas Stars, an ice hockey team, publicly came out against the measure and the Dallas Cowboys were credited with working against it behind the scenes.

Rho said anti-trans legislation was unsuccessful in Texas because trans rights supporters had “done such a good job” informing the public about the “damage that it causes to trans kids in particular but trans adults as well.”

“I think there is a really big force behind a victory like in Texas, with the business communities from the beginning of the legislative session into the end of the special session being vocal about why they didn’t want these kinds of bills in their state,” Rho said.

McLain-Snipes said the defeat of the anti-trans legislation was the result of how

“people heard our stories” after the transgender community spoke out.

“The power of transgender people sharing their experience and their fears with the potential of this legislation passing really let other Texans know what was at stake, and as a result, folks were calling their representatives and their senators and saying, ‘Don’t do this on my behalf,’” McLain-Snipes said. “And it really caused a lot of folks to not want to pass that type of legislation.”

Other states where anti-trans bathroom bills were introduced this year, but didn’t make it into law, were Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New York, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington and Wyoming.

In North Carolina, where an anti-trans measure was already law as a result of former Gov. North Carolina Pat McCrory signing into law House Bill 2, North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper with Republican lawmakers replaced the law with House Bill 135. The new law, which LGBT rights supporters say is still discriminatory, bars cities from passing pro-LGBT non-discrimination ordinances for three years and state agencies from “regulation of access” to bathroom facilities.

Although the anti-trans bill was defeated in Texas, Abbott signed into law – perhaps as a silver medal to opponents of LGBT rights – a law allowing taxpayer-funded adoption agencies to refuse child placement based on religious objections. Preceding Texas this year in enacting similar measures were Alabama and South Dakota.

Many child placement agencies are religious institutions, such as Catholic adoption agencies. Under these new laws, these agencies could be free to deny placement to an LGBT family – or Jewish people, Muslims and single parents – based on religious beliefs.

In Texas, McLain-Snipes said the foster care system is in crisis and “children are in state custody because they can’t get them places soon enough,” which made lawmakers willing to accept anti-LGBT legislation when adoption agencies threatened to bolt after the advent of marriage equality.

“In that crisis situation, the legislators felt like they needed to make that problematic compromise in order to get those religious organizations back to the table and back to offering services where they previously walked away,” McLain-Snipes said.

Rho said states that enacted anti-LGBT adoption measures were also ones where anti-trans legislation was introduced, so part

Eunice Rho, advocacy and policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, told the Washington Blade activity at the state level “wasn’t as damaging as it could have been” on LGBT issues this year. “I don’t think a single anti-trans bill about public accommodations passed this session, which was really heartening and also we didn’t see bills like the RFRA or FADA pass at the state level, too.”

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Gerrymandering Petition Approved in Michigan

The Michigan Board of Canvassers granted unanimous approval for Voters Not Politicians to circulate petitions on Aug. 17 for a 2018 ballot proposal that would change the state constitution to end political gerrymandering in the state.

The group has started signature collection through an all-volunteer effort to reform the rules by 2020.

State elections officials said the proposed constitutional amendment - which would establish a 13-member citizens commission made up of five independent voters and four each from the two major parties - was one of the most complex they'd ever reviewed.

"We are working to end partisan control by either party," Kirk Haverkamp of Voters Not Politicians told the Metro Times. "Gerrymandering disenfranchises voters of both parties, as well as independents, by locking them into districts where their votes don't matter. It also results in the election of more extreme candidates, because elections in gerrymandered 'safe' districts tend to be determined in the primaries, which are dominated by party loyalists."

The group will have to collect nearly 316,000 valid signatures to get the proposal on the November 2018 ballot.

More information is available online at votersnotpoliticians.com/findthepetition.

Indian Supreme Court Issues Landmark Privacy Ruling

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

A landmark Indian Supreme Court ruling on Aug. 24 will likely have implications on efforts to decriminalize consensual same-sex sexual relations in the South Asian country.

The BBC reported the judges ruled the fundamental right to privacy was "an intrinsic part of Article 21 that protects life and liberty." They also said "discrimination against an individual on the basis of sexual orientation is deeply offensive to the dignity and self-worth of the individual."

The ruling comes in response to challenges to the Indian government's plan to implement a biometric identity card system. It also counters the top court's 2013 ruling that reinstated India's colonial-era sodomy law, which is known as Section 377.

The Indian Supreme Court in 2016 said it would review the Section 377 ruling. The BBC on Thursday reported the judges will consider the issue later.

The Washington Blade has reached out to Indian LGBT and intersex activists for comment on the Aug. 24 ruling.

Comprehensive Community Center to Open in Lansing

Salus Center Will Tend to Physical, Emotional and Spiritual Needs of LGBTQ People, Their Families and Allies

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Rev. Phiwa Langeni has a vision - to create an LGBT resource and community center in the Lansing area that offers a spiritual component including a church that meets onsite.

"I believe that humanity, humans, is made to be whole and to be well," said Langeni about the Salus Center, which is scheduled to open in September. "And I think particularly in the LGBT community, culture has us believing otherwise. In some ways I am creating a space that I know I needed both when I was young and trying to wrestle with coming out and being a Christian in a tradition that was not accepting."

The need for such a space was obvious to Langeni, who recently came out as transgender and struggles to find basic level resources.

"I couldn't find a place to go to just be my full self," they said. "It can be extremely dehumanizing to walk into some place, like a health clinic, and find out that they're not trans-friendly. That's what compelled me to bring people into a space of 'wholeness and wellness' from the Latin word Salus."

The Salus Center United Church of Christ will be included, but Langeni is not planning to operate as a traditional church does. They explained that one does not have to have any kind of religious beliefs or understandings.

"The worship community is optional and not a requirement for anyone to participate in anything in the center. It's a multifaith rather than interfaith congregation," they said. "Some of the things that I'm hoping to have in that space is that we'll be listening to music on the radio. There will be no pews or hymn books."

To date, the bulk of funding the center has received has come from the Conference UCC. But Langeni is hoping to diversify by applying for grants and seeking monies elsewhere.

"We've been hosting local fundraisers. It brings us together as a community," they said, adding that they plans to host a talent show in October. Langeni is also attempting to network with other centers throughout the state.

"I'm actively kind of putting out a lot of

tentacles simultaneously," they said. "I'm trying to build connections that work and I have a few people who are getting me connected to these centers. I know Holland just created a new one so I'd be very interested to hear their process of doing this at sort of the same time I am. For me, there's a sense of urgency. Maybe this is me being a faith person - kind of leaping in before all of the pieces are set already. People are actively dying. To wait and not respond to a need that has been expressed in multiple

opportunities," they said.

Grow is about education to begin shifting culture to be able to better welcome and serve the LGBT community.

For example, they said, "To train facilitators to do peer facilitation for trans folk and families of trans folk in the community."

Be is the worship community. They points to One Love, a new church in Lansing that will use the Salus Center on Sunday mornings in addition to energy workers.

"I'm currently talking to someone who will be leading queer yoga and other spiritual practices that people can find in that space," said Langeni, who said Transform is about community, and they means a radical community.

"A welcome that says I have to be different to welcome you here in this space. If you're not free there's no way I can be free. Coming from South Africa there's the concept of Ubuntu. My humanity is not whole if you're not whole as a human. To me that's what transformative community is about," they said.

Langeni will challenge visitors to Question their inherited and imbedded beliefs.

"Being able to question what we've all kind of inherited in different ways and being able to interpret differently is I believe essential to this work of wholeness," they said.

Beyond this LGBTQ model, what the Salus Center will become will be shaped by the community Langeni hopes to serve.

"I have such a collaborative leading style and I hope that folks in the community will feel empowered to name their needs," they said. "People are already saying this is what I have to offer. Is there room for it? And as long as it's in line with our mission I'm trying to accommodate it."

The Salus Center is located at 624 E. Michigan Avenue in Lansing. An open house is scheduled for Sept. 9 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information, call 517-580-4593, visit saluscenter.org or [facebook.com/SalusCenterMI](https://www.facebook.com/SalusCenterMI).



Rev. Phiwa Langeni

different ways, I felt we just needed to hop in and make this happen."

The Salus Center will be open Sunday through Thursday with hours to be announced. The staff, aside from Langeni, will be volunteer-based. On any given day a visitor to the Salus Center might find a locally curated art exhibit gracing its walls, a transgender support group meeting, or a Reiki healer offering private sessions. All programming for the center will fit into what Langeni calls the LGBTQ model - Love, Grow, Be, Transform and Question.

Love, they said, is attending to service and justice.

"It means being able to gather folk and express concerns that are not LGBT only. But being able to gather folks around justice

► State Legislatures

Continued from p. 5

of an effort “to divide attention, resources, opposition” in attempts to pass at least one anti-LGBT bill.

“Unfortunately, the adoption and foster care bills have been challenging,” Rho said. “There’s a pretty low level of understanding of how our adoption and foster care system works, and so there’s not an immediate connection to the harm that it poses not just to the couples or individuals wanting to adopt, but of course the children who are in the system. So I think the immediate harm is sometimes not immediately understood.”

Broader religious freedom bills were introduced this year in Arkansas, Texas, Washington and Wyoming, but didn’t make it into law. Although the effort to pass these measures was less energetic than years past, they still were introduced and discussed.

After massive outcry over “religious freedom” measures allowing denial of services to LGBT people, such as the law Vice President Mike Pence signed as Indiana governor, McLain-Snipes said the adoption bills were the result of more narrowed attempts to enable discrimination.

“We have seen a shift from very broad religious exemption legislation to more narrowed, and the implications, reasons for denial,” McLain-Snipes said. “So that’s why you saw a shift and a focus on unfortunately our most vulnerable, on families.”

The pro-LGBT side also saw victories in state legislatures. Four states – Connecticut, Nevada, New Mexico and Rhode Island – enacted bans against widely discredited “ex-gay” therapy for youth. The measures enjoyed such bipartisan support that in two cases Republican governors – Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval and New Mexico Gov. Susanna Martinez – signed the bills into law.

McLain-Snipes said the passage of bans on “ex-gay” conversion therapy “gives me a lot of hope” because they demonstrate greater awareness of the harms over the practice.

“People are seeing so-called conversion therapy for what it is, which is abuse and fraud,” McLain-Snipes said. “So, decision-makers who are able to enact policies to protect vulnerable youth have been doing what they can doing their part to make sure that folks get protections from discredited practices.”

But in other states, attempts to ban “ex-gay” conversion therapy were unsuccessful. In New Hampshire, a committee in the Republican-controlled House voted to retain the measure to keep it from advancing to the floor. In Colorado, a Senate committee rejected a similar measure.

Attempts to enact non-discrimination laws, a longstanding goal of the LGBT rights movement, weren’t as successful as conversion therapy bans. Versions of legislation that would enshrine LGBT non-discrimination

protections into law were introduced in just about all the 22 states that lack them, but none made it into law.

In New York, where anti-trans discrimination is already illegal as a result of an order signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, an attempt to codify those protections passed the Assembly, but remains dead-in-the-water in the Republican-controlled Senate. In New Hampshire, an attempt to expand human rights laws to include gender identity was approved in House committee, but ultimately tabled on the floor.

Rodrigo Heng-Lehtinen, director of public education for Freedom for All Americans, said the failure of the anti-trans bathroom bill in Texas “absolutely” affords lessons for pro-trans protections in New Hampshire – even though the measures are opposite in nature.

“The huge success in Texas was all the opposition from the business community warning a bathroom ban would cost the state up to \$5.6 billion in economic investment,” Heng-Lehtinen said. “New Hampshire’s economy is nowhere near as big as Texas, but not taking steps to protect trans people from discrimination would still negatively impact the state’s economy.”

Heng-Lehtinen, the transgender son of Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.), also pointed out New Hampshire is now the only state in New England without explicit transgender non-discrimination protections.

“As New Hampshire works to compete with all of its neighboring states, it’s now at a disadvantage and it’s further behind all of their neighbors, so they’re this island in New England as far as the business community is concerned,” Heng-Lehtinen said.

With legislative sessions now at a close for 2017, the next phase of anti-LGBT bills may well be pre-emption bills aimed at undermining city ordinances in conservative states protecting LGBT rights.

Earlier this month on “Fox & Friends,” Patrick hinted these measures could allow Republican-controlled states to undermine Democratic authority in cities.

“Where do we have all our problems in America?” Patrick said. “Not at the state level, run by Republicans, but in our cities that are mostly controlled by Democrat mayors and Democrat city council men and women. That’s where you see liberal policies, that’s where you see high taxes, where you see high street crimes.”

Rho pointed to Patrick’s remarks as evidence that pre-emption bills – already the law in some form in Tennessee, Arkansas and North Carolina – are the next wave of attacks.

“The threat about pre-emption is that it will target LGBT communities specifically because they target non-discrimination ordinances, but they really hit out at a host of reforms or progressive ideas that municipalities or localities or trying to introduce, and it will greatly reduce their power whether it’s about wage or family or what have you,” Rho said.



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Murderabilia: Straight and Gay



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

On the eve of his 58th birthday, just hours after telephone chatting farewell with his wife Primrose, Dr. Harold Shipman, Britain's most prolific serial killer, cheated the hangman's noose by committing suicide with bed sheets in his prison cell.

Over 23 years he killed 215 patients. Jane Gaskill, daughter of parent victims, said of the suicide, "He's won again. He's controlled us all the way, even to the last step. I hate, hate him for it."

Dr. Shipman's horrific tally is matched by Luis Alfredo Gravito Cubillos, convicted in 2002 of murdering 200 children ages 8 to 13 in Columbia, South America. His victims were tortured, decapitated. Sentence total: 2600 years (judicial overkill; 563 more to go).

Here's tallies for some of America's infamous serial killers: David "Son of Sam" Berkowitz (6 killings; 6 maimings; 1400 arsons); Richard "Night Stalker" Ramirez (20; 13 convictions); "Zodiac Killer," identity still unknown 44 years later (6); John Wayne Gacy (33); Ted Bundy (35 to 60), Jeffery Dahmer (17, some ritual cannibalism).

The number of female serial killers compared to males is small. Harold Schecter's "The Serial Killer Files" (Balantine Books) profiles 13 of history's deadliest women, including Aileen Wuornos, subject of bio-flic "Monster," starring Charlize Theron.

Wuornos, often dubbed "America's first woman serial killer" – she wasn't, by a century – was abandoned at six months by her mother, sexually abused as a child by her father (who later hanged himself after being caught molesting a girl).

Wuornos off'd seven truckers out for a mutual prostituting lark. At her 1992 trial her lesbian lover turned state's evidence, testifying against her. She was executed in October 2002, becoming a feminist icon of sorts.

Serial killer memorabilia are coveted. Gacy's paintings are pricey. (One collector buys his evil clowns to destroy them). Trading cards, comic books, T-shirts, snow globes, snapshots sell fast. All aptly named "murderabilia."

Son of Sam's letters written to "fans" bring \$200 on e-Bay. "I know what a nightmare it is to see some of these things marketed," he frets. "The sale of these things grieves my heart."

Arrested in 1979, Berkowitz, now 65, professes to be born-again. "Son of Hope." He's not the only serial killer to be "washed in the blood of the Lamb," as the old-time gospel hymn ghoulies it. Saved for eternity with Jesus!

He's joined by Jeffrey Dahmer – purportedly now serving out his sentence in Heaven – who repented of his ghoulish sins, accepted Jesus as his personal savior, only to be done in by a convict he was sharing a soap-on-a-rope prison shower with.

Although Gacy and Dahmer were gay, Wournos, a lesbian, the majority of serial killers are straight according to author Schecter. (Not that that's consolation to the gay living or the straight dead.)

Bar stooling recently at an on-campus bistro, a student asked me off hand if I knew the name Mudgett. Said he was related. Jeopardy surprise! I did. Real last name of Dr. H. H. Holmes, "America's first serial killer." 100 to 200 murders.

(Herman Webster Mudgett. Studied medicine at U of M. Graduated 1884. Passed through Detroit in 1892. Murdered dozens in his horror hotel during Chicago's 1893 Columbian Exposition. Hanged 1896. His last request: burial under 16' of concrete.)

Connect with Charles Alexander at Charles@pridesource.com



Viewpoint



Harming Our Troops

Vice President Pence is reported to be the 'driving force' behind the Transgender military ban

BY JAY KAPLAN

On Monday morning, Aug. 28, the ACLU filed a lawsuit in the federal district court of Maryland challenging the constitutionality of the Trump Administration's transgender service member ban. The 39-page lawsuit states that the ban violates both Equal Protection and Due Process guarantees under the U.S. Constitution, because it singles out transgender people for unequal and discriminatory treatment. On that same day, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, along with Outserve Service Members Legal Defense Network (SLN) also filed a legal challenge. (Note: Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) and National Center for Lesbian Rights had filed a legal challenge to Trump's proposed ban on twitter [July 26] prior to the White House issuing guidance on Aug. 25.

Despite promises to the contrary during the 2016 Presidential Election campaign, the Trump Administration has been anything but friendly to the LGBT community, as evident in the Department of Justice's rescission of guideline protecting transgender students from discrimination in school regarding bathrooms, the Administration's support of policies and practices that would allow discrimination against LGBT in the name of religion, the appointment of Neil Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court, whose previous legal opinions indicate an antipathy towards LGBT relationships, and now this.

While we can be outraged, appalled and feel disheartened by this most blatant attack upon the

See next page

Once again, we rely upon our system of checks and balances and hope the judiciary will recognize this policy for what it is- discriminatory, heartless, reckless, cynically political and unconstitutional.

► Viewpoint: Kaplan

Continued from p. 18

transgender community, one that clearly harms and disrespects the thousands of patriotic transgender military personnel who have put their lives on the line for the safety and security of our country, it is also very important that we speak out against this policy- to our friends, to our family members, to our colleagues who assured us that we had nothing to fear from this presidential administration. And the best way to do this is to by making sure we are well informed about the facts.

- The guidance from Trump Administration (that impacts thousand of peoples' lives and the security of our country) has been boiled down to a 2.5-page memo that directs Defense Secretary to come up with a policy to determine the fitness of currently serving transgender service members, based on their "deployability" (can they serve in a war zone and engage in military exercises or function on a ship for months?). The directive also halts any payments for transgender related medical treatment and bars any recruitment or new enlistment of transgender service members.

- The Washington Blade reports that an anonymous White House senior official said that Vice President Pence is the "driving force" behind the ban at the behest of such conservative groups as the Family Research Council.

- Despite Trump's twitter claim that he had consulted with general and military experts on the ban, that turned out not to be the case.

- The transgender military ban was removed by the Obama Administration in 2016, following a study done by the RAND Corporation (a non-partisan organization), which found that there would be a "minimal" readiness impact by allowing transgender service members to serve openly. Furthermore, RAND concluded that the health care costs regarding transition medical services to transgender service members would be "extremely small" between \$2.4 million and 8.4 million a year - far less than the amount the military pays for Viagra for servicemen, and less than the costs so far for security detail for President Trump's trips to Mar-a-Lago.

- In short, every justification that the president has offered in support of the ban has been thoroughly reviewed and debunked by the Department of Defense itself when it

adopted a policy permitting military service by transgender individuals last year.

- As a result of the lifting of the transgender military ban there are approximately 5,000-10,000 transgender service members, many who are now serving openly, who could lose their jobs.

- Involuntary removal of transgender service members could not only upend current military operations, but also affects the individual transgender service member's livelihood, pension, and well as access to health care, despite his/her/their service to the U.S. The damage to service members and all trans people who worry for their financial well-being, safety, and dignity cannot be undone by a policy that says "you and your lives are not valuable."

- 18 foreign countries permit transgender persons to serve openly in the military. The RAND report focused on four countries- Australia, Canada, Israel, and the United Kingdom and found that none of these countries' militaries reported a negative impact on military cohesion nor readiness to serve.

- Close to 60 retired generals from various military branches have issues a statement against the transgender ban, warning that it would degrade military readiness and cause serious disruption in the armed forces.

- Members of Congress, including Republican Senators John McCain, Orrin Hatch (who both opposed repealing the ban on gays in the military in 2010) have spoken out against the ban.

Once again, we rely upon our system of checks and balances and hope the judiciary will recognize this policy for what it is- discriminatory, heartless, reckless, cynically political and unconstitutional. And to quote a reconnaissance platoon leader, who is currently deployed to Afghanistan regarding Trump's initial tweets:

"History has proven time and time again that restrictions against certain groups joining the military, such as African-Americans or Japanese-Americans, are self-defeating. The results of lifting these arbitrary restrictions have always been the same. The reasons given for the restrictions never came to fruition, were based on fear and prejudice, and the military was ultimately stronger based on a swell of new applicants and diversity in its ranks."

Jay Kaplan is the staff attorney with the ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project. He can be reached at jkaplan@aclumich.org.

Creep of the Week

Donald Trump...Again. (Surprise)

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



Trump is an outlier. Extreme and incompetent beyond measure. So much so that people who are also extremist, though not insane, seem like great choices.

Houston's under water right now, but don't worry, Donald Trump is feverishly working to ferret out transgender service members.

I'm going to guess that when National Guard members arrive to rescue people from flooded homes nobody cares about whether or not their rescuer is trans.

And yet Trump, who has never served in the military, has the audacity to tell people willing to give their lives for this country, "We don't want you because your health care is too expensive. At least that's what I've been told, because I don't know a damn thing about health care or health care costs. MAGA!"

Trump is an unequivocal failure. He cannot perform the most basic functions of his job and doesn't seem at all interested in the well-being of the country. All he cares about is his himself and his base, literally the worst people in America. People who think Black Lives Matter is a terrorist organization and the outcome of the Civil War is up for debate. People who think that two men marrying causes hurricanes. People who parade through the streets in Nazi regalia. All of the ugliness in American history is not only amplified under Trump, it's condoned and pardoned.

We handed our country to a man who told us he would do it harm. "But he's a businessman," people said. "We need an outsider."

Yet no company would hire a CEO who said at the interview, "I know nothing about business, I care nothing about business, and, in fact, I want to get rid of as much business as possible!" But that's exactly what we did with our country, electing a man so woefully unqualified and hostile to democracy that literally anybody looks better by comparison.

We must be careful, however, to remember that Trump is not the standard

to which Republicans should be compared. He is an outlier. Extreme and incompetent beyond measure. So much so that people who are also extremist, though not insane, seem like great choices. But it is only in comparison to Trump that someone like Ohio Gov. John Kasich, radically extreme when it comes to limiting reproductive rights, can cast himself as a moderate. We must remember that being sane isn't the same as being moderate, or even good.

Yeah, Kasich probably won't Tweet us into a nuclear war, but this is the same guy who refused to recognize an Ohio gay couple's marriage while one of those men was dying and still refused even after the man's death. So let's not get too carried away with the Kasich 2020 stuff.

I'm sickened by what Trump and his deplorables are doing to this country. And taking aim at transgender service members, yanking back the gains they made under President Obama, is disgraceful.

Remember, though, that the ban wasn't Trump's idea. This is something the right-wing has been pushing for years. Trans panic is all the rage, after all.

Pence supports this ban. Kasich likely would, too. In fact, the ban would probably happen if any of the candidates on that crowded GOP primary stage had won the presidency. The only difference is that it would've been wrapped in a "compassionate conservative" veneer instead of being rage-Tweeted by a narcissistic moron.

Remember, Republicans gave us Trump, but they've also given us decades of anti-LGBTQ policy and rhetoric. They own this. Don't be fooled into thinking they will get us out of this mess. They ARE this mess.

And if you meet a trans service member please thank them. And apologize. And vote.

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NEWS

Trans Bathroom Access (Again) Reaches Supreme Court

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

The U.S. Supreme Court may have nixed consideration of Virginia transgender student Gavin Grimm's lawsuit, but another opportunity has presented itself before justices to make a nationwide ruling on bathroom access for transgender kids in school.

The Kenosha Unified School District in Wisconsin filed on Friday a petition before the U.S. Supreme Court seeking to reverse a decision by the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals granting Ash Whitaker, a transgender boy, access to the school restroom consistent with his gender identity.

"By deeming transgender status as a sex-based classification, the Seventh Circuit has failed to heed this Court's admonishment that lower courts should not create new suspect classifications," the petition says.

The questions presented before the court are 1) whether school policies requiring boys and girls to use separate restrooms according to the biological sex is a violation of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and 2) whether such policies are a sex-based classification triggering heightened scrutiny under an equal protection analysis, as determined by the Seventh Circuit.

Should the Supreme Court grant a writ of certiorari – or agree to take up the case – and rule in favor of Ash, it could mean a nationwide ruling guaranteeing transgender students have access to the school restroom consistent with their gender identity.

"This is a matter of national importance," the petition says. "The number of students in America's public schools who label themselves as transgender is growing, and advocacy groups are pushing to create rights for these students. School districts, students, and parents across the country need guidance on this issue given the conflicting decisions by various courts, guidance which has been issued and withdrawn by the Department of Education, and the lack of any other definitive answers."

But while transgender advocates may want Supreme Court review for a ruling in favor of trans bathroom access for transgender students nationwide, Kenosha seeks a decision enabling schools to make the decision on which bathroom is best for their students.

"This Court should accept review to resolve this conflict and to hold that a policy that merely reflects the anatomical differences between boys and girls, is not 'sex stereotyping,'" the petition says. "Under such a policy, no one is required to conform their appearance or behavior to a particular sex stereotype. Instead it is applied uniformly to the sexes – male and female alike – and they

are both required to use sex-distinct public restrooms."

The petition also cites privacy concerns about transgender students using their bathroom of their choice, arguing "delicate issues of privacy should be left to local, elected boards of education."

"School districts must be cognizant of the rights of their students' parents," the petition says. "Depriving parents of a say over whether their children should be exposed to members of the opposite sex, possibly in a state of partial undress in intimate settings, deprives parents of their right to direct the education and upbringing of their children."

Both the district court and the Seventh Circuit ruled in favor of Ash after determining the prohibition on sex discrimination under Title IX also bars schools from denying transgender kids to school restroom in accordance with their gender identity.

The petition represents a second chance for the Supreme Court to consider the issue of bathroom access for transgender students after it nixed plans to the review the high-profile case of Gavin Grimm, who sued his Gloucester County high school in Virginia to use the restroom consistent with his gender identity.

Although the Supreme Court agreed to hear Gavin's case, justices scrapped those plans after the Trump administration rescinded Obama-era guidance assuring transgender kids access to school restrooms consistent with their gender identity, remanding the issue for reconsideration before the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. The case has since been sent back to trial court.

Representing Ash in the lawsuit is San Francisco-based Transgender Law Center and the D.C.-based law firm Relman, Dane & Colfax, which in a joint statement predicted the Supreme Court would reject arguments against the decision granting Ash access to the boys' room.

"The unanimous decision from the Seventh Circuit was correct and consistent with the decisions of other courts, which similarly have held that transgender students have the right to equal educational opportunities," the statement says. "It is troubling that KUSD would go to such lengths to defend its discriminatory and harmful actions against Ash, a high school student who just wanted to be treated like any other boy, especially now that he has graduated and started college. We are confident that KUSD's wrongheaded and legally incorrect position will continue to be rejected, as it has been at every stage of this case so far."

The court will likely consider whether or not to take up the case during a conference after their term begins in September following its summer recess.



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► Houston Flood

Continued from p. 4

The nation's fourth largest city, Houston has been accustomed to flooding of its numerous waterways, including bayous, but officials said the "historic" flooding over the past several days resulted in serious damage and total destruction of thousands of homes and businesses unlike any previous flooding incidents.

"Houston is really bad off right now," said Houston LGBT rights advocate Lou Weaver, who said he was stranded this week in Dallas after learning, during a visit there, that all main roads leading to Houston were impassible.

"Many of my friends have lost everything they own," he told the Washington Blade. "Some are stranded in their homes."

He said that in addition to the creation of the LGBT disaster funds many from Houston's LGBT community were volunteering their help at the George R. Brown Convention Center, the city's largest convention hall that has been converted into an emergency shelter.

A Houston city spokesperson told the Washington Post more than 1,500 people had been taken to the convention center Sunday night (at presstime over 8,000 people were believed to be at the convention center). Many of them had been rescued by boat from the roofs of their homes as flood waters rose to the height of their first floor ceilings, disaster relief officials said.

Officials said the convention center has the capacity to take in a total of 4,000 people displaced from their homes by the flooding.

One of the buildings hit hard by the flooding was Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, a mostly LGBT congregation located in Houston's Inner Loop near White Oak Bayou. The bayou surged over its banks during the heavy rainfall on Saturday night, putting one to one-and-a-half feet of water into the church.

Rev. Troy Treash, the church's senior pastor, said church members were ripping up carpeting and shoveling out mud from the church as he spoke to the Blade on Monday.

"We're just part of a city where everything is crazy at the moment," he said. "We're a bit awash in feelings at the moment."

Treash said the congregation moved into its current space in 2000, a year before Tropical Storm Allison flooded Houston in 2001.

"This is the second flood in this space. We thought it wouldn't happen again," he said. "We definitely need prayers."

The congregation is looking for ways to help families forced out of their homes by the flooding, he told the Blade.

"We're looking for ways to put them up," he said. "We're trying to find spaces that are safe for them. We're a progressive LGBT congregation that has a voice in a part of the world that is sorely missing it right now."

Veteran gay rights advocate Ray Hill, a longtime resident of Houston's Montrose neighborhood long known for its high concentration of LGBT people, said he is



Floodwaters flood Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church in Houston on Aug. 27, 2017. What was once Hurricane Harvey has inundated large swaths of the city and southeast Texas since it made landfall on the state's Gulf Coast. Photo courtesy of Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church

In addition to the creation of the LGBT disaster funds many from Houston's LGBT community were volunteering their help at the George R. Brown Convention Center, the city's largest convention hall that has been converted into an emergency shelter.

lucky that his street and the street on which the Montrose Center is located four blocks away are on higher ground and had not been hit by flooding as of Monday afternoon.

Hill noted that the section of Montrose where he lives and where the Montrose Center and a number of popular gay bars and clubs are located are on the opposite side of Montrose's southern boundary, which consists of the Buffalo Bayou, a body of water that often floods during storms far less severe than Harvey.

He said that section of Montrose was hit by flooding over the past few days, forcing many residents to seek refuge elsewhere.

The Montrose Center initially had planned to serve as a place where people displaced by the storm could come for support -- both LGBT and straight, Hill told the Blade. But he said the severe flooding in other parts of the city prevented most of the center's staff from getting to the center to organize the relief effort.

Instead, according to Hill, the few staff people able to make to the center set up a makeshift information and referral center in the center's first floor garage providing cover from the rain, which was continuing on Monday.

"They are giving directions to other

emergency sites," Hill said. "So our community is being responsive. If you live in a place like Houston part of being a good citizen is sharing and caring."

Trans rights advocate Monica Roberts, a longtime Houston resident, said she too is fortunate to live in a section near downtown Houston that was not hit by flooding and retained its electric power service.

But she said he was worried about additional flooding expected when the city releases a large quantity of water from a reservoir behind a dam that has filled to capacity from the massive rainfall caused by Harvey. City officials have said not releasing the water, which will cause additional but modest flooding, could result in the dam bursting, a catastrophe of unthinkable proportions.

Roberts said she is aware of concern within the trans community of possible discrimination against trans people at city and private shelters for those forced from their homes due to flooding.

"As of now I have not heard of any cases where LGBT people were turned away from a shelter," she said.

Roberts and other LGBT activists say a separate matter raising concern is what they see as the politicization of the flooding by some Texas Republican Party leaders. Among other things, some of the GOP activists were attacking Houston's LGBT-supportive mayor, Sylvester Turner, for deciding not to order most residents to evacuate the city in the days before the hurricane hit.

Roberts and others supportive of the mayor point to the attempt to evacuate the city in 2005 as Hurricane Rita approached, when 100 or more people died after being stranded in traffic backed up for miles as 2.5 million people fled the city at the same time.

"It was 95-plus degree temperatures,"

Roberts said. "People ran out of gas. Some suffered from heat stroke and emergency responders couldn't get to them," she said. Roberts noted that had an evacuation attempt been made this time the fleeing motorists would have been trapped in flood waters that currently have submerged nearly all highways and roads leading out of Houston.

Among those initially calling for an evacuation was Republican Gov. Greg Abbott.

"Even if an evacuation order hasn't been issued by your local official, if you're in an area between Corpus Christi and Houston, you need to strongly consider evacuating," Abbott said at a news conference last Friday.

Turner succeeded two-term Democratic Mayor Annise Parker, a prominent lesbian activist and longtime LGBT rights advocate before becoming mayor. A term limits law prevented Parker from running for a third term. Roberts and Hill said Turner is a strong supporter of the LGBT community.

Gay activist Ryan Wilson said he and his husband moved to Houston in March after his husband took a new job there. He said the severe flooding caused by Harvey wasn't something he and his husband expected.

"We're kind of like living on an island right now surrounded by water," he said, noting that his neighborhood in the city's midtown section had so far been spared from flooding. "The further out from the city center you go, the worse it gets."

How to Donate

Information about the Hurricane Harvey LGBTQ Disaster Relief Fund, the Transgender Disaster Relief Fund and the Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church can be accessed here:

<http://gaybe.am/8a>

Rachel Oliver: A Splash of Fire and Sass

Michigan's Own Female Bladesmith Competes on History Channel's 'Forged in Fire'

BY DAVID RYALS

Rachel Oliver describes her work on the History Channel's reality show "Forged in Fire" as "grueling and surreal." She fought long and hard – filming for 10-15 hours a day on set – and won second place during season four of the show.

"It was the most exhilarating, exhausting, exciting, humbling experience of my life to date," said Oliver, who recently returned home to Wyandotte from Brooklyn, New York where the show was filmed. "I learned so much about myself in the short amount of time I had. My work was critiqued by world-renowned bladesmiths. The amount of stress and effort that comes with competitions and working on a TV show, as well as working with bladesmiths and blacksmiths with many more years of experience than I have – and being able to hold my own against them."

"Forged in Fire" is an original competition series hosted by weapons expert and U.S. Army and Air Force veteran Wil Willis, featuring world-class bladesmiths competing to create history's most iconic edged weapons using a wide range of metalworking equipment including propane and coal forges, grinders, power hammers and hydraulic presses. In each episode, four of the nation's finest bladesmiths come together to put their skill and reputations on the line, trying to avoid elimination and win the \$10,000 prize.

"There were some times I wasn't sure I was going to make it out alive," said Oliver, who manages a rare adrenal deficiency that affects her cortisol and hormone levels. This condition affects her heat tolerance and creates a poor response to stress. A little sleep in between shoots made the unbearable possible for Oliver as did her motivation to compete.



Rachel Oliver describes her work on the History Channel's reality show "Forged in Fire" as "grueling and surreal."

"It was one of the greatest places to be as this is the place that many of my bladesmithing heroes have competed and I'm standing with them," she said. Oliver is well aware that bladesmithing has long been a predominantly male craft, but she thinks it's "amazing" to make a living forging knives, blades, and weapons.

"The majority of the guys have been real cool about me entering the world. They've been even cooler about not cutting me slack just because I am a woman. If I make a poor quality blade be it aesthetically or physically, they let me know, no frills," she said. "They treat me as an equal and that is, in itself, an honor."

When it comes to knowing other women in

the smithing field, Oliver said, "Unfortunately, I only know one, personally. Most women I am familiar with do another method that doesn't require forging, a more modern technique known as 'stock removal' – equally as valid, simply different."

"Forged In Fire" encourages diversity in the industry. The History Channel's VP and head of programming and development, Tim Healy, told Decider in February 2016 that, "I don't want to shoehorn in female characters for the sake of having female characters. So what's really important to us as a brand is the level of authenticity. I think as a network we're constantly striving to be more diverse and to expand the range of our characters, but it really comes down to that authenticity."

Becoming a Bladesmith

Oliver spent much of her youth exploring Michigan's wilderness with her father. "My dad raised us as adventurers in the woods, camping, living as minimalists, relying on our planet, aka bushcrafting," she said. After working in a big-box store and learning about the bushcraft knife, Oliver said she "fell in love with the blade style and started researching anything I could to learn more about this world of handmade knives from the adventurers to the chefs in the kitchen."

As her life and work progressed so did her self-awareness. Oliver identifies as a genderqueer lesbian.

"Some days, I feel unlike either gender and use the family bathroom. Other days, I want to doll up my eyes and feel like a woman. I'm me with a splash of fire and sass," she said. Now that Oliver is back home, settling into her groove, she and her girlfriend will be building a new forge and revamping her basement-style operation, BlackTagMi, where she will continue producing blades of all cuts, shapes and purposes using reclaimed steels and repurposed woods.

"I will be repairing my Kachin Dao from the show, as well as forging a new one, as a nod to my knowledge and abilities gained since competing on the show," she said. "I feel this has given me a new outlook, a personal connection and appreciation of this time-honored craft."

Check out Oliver's work on the BlackTagMi Facebook page, check her out on Instagram at Forge le femme. Watch her compete on the History Channel's show, "Forged in Fire."

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World AIDS Conference Report

BY DR. PAUL BENSON

It was a momentous week (July 27 -29, 2017) at the International AIDS Society's (IAS) 9th Conference on HIV Science taking place in Paris, France. Nearly 8,000 clinicians, community leaders, policy makers, and HIV advocates from more than 140 countries were in attendance. I've been able to attend every HIV world conference annually since they began in the 1980s. Optimism increases each and every year. There were so many presentations occurring simultaneously that it would be impossible for one person to take in all that was offered. I will attempt to report on what was meaningful to me and hopefully to you.

Globally, there has been a 16% reduction of newly diagnosed HIV cases between 2010 and 2016. This contrasts with a 29% increase in new cases observed in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. There are currently 19 million HIV-infected individuals on therapy. This is slightly below the goal set forth by the World Health Organization of 30 million people on therapy by 2020.

Three-drug antiretroviral therapy (ART) has been the standard of care in the United States and other parts of the world since 1996. This approach has been responsible for maintaining successful therapy by keeping viral loads below the level of detection and allowing those HIV-infected to live well without getting sick. Newer drugs and combined formulations have made it as easy as one pill once a day, while avoiding toxicities. We've become quite comfortable with triple drug therapy, but it may be time to stretch our comfort zone and re-think this strategy by using two drug therapies instead. If effective, this could possibly reduce potential long-term toxicities and lower costs. The European AIDS Clinical Society has already approved dual drug therapy as an acceptable alternative.

This conference presented several smaller studies which suggested that dual therapy is efficacious. These studies included the ACTG 5353, the Paddle study, the Gardel study, and the Andes study. The Gemini study, a very large cohort which is now underway should answer the question of dual therapy effectiveness. The

Be Well Medical Center is one of the research sites participating in the Gemini studies. Enrollment is closed and week 48 results are expected next year. The Emerald study's 48-week results were presented using the single pill fixed dose combination of darunavir, cobicistat, emtricitabine, and tenofovir alafenamide compared to these individual agents separately. The Be Well Medical Center is also participating in this study. The single tablet was non-inferior to the multi-tablet regimen at 48 weeks. When approved, this will be the first single tablet complete protease inhibitor based regimen.

There is a future in long acting injectable therapy for both treatment and prevention of HIV. One injectable with promise is the long acting integrase inhibitor Cabotegravir. Two year results from the LATTE study demonstrated that monthly or bimonthly injections of Cabotegravir combined with another injectable rilpivirine (rilpivirine is currently available in an oral formulation) may be an option to replace daily oral regimens for HIV. The SWORD study presented 48 week data in experienced patients who switched from oral medication to this dual drug injection therapy. The results so far demonstrated equal efficacy.

The Gilead 1489 clinical trial presented 48 week results using the new Integrase inhibitor Bictegravir. It demonstrated 92.4% efficacy which was equal to the comparator arm. It demonstrated no resistance and was very well tolerated. The Be Well Medical Center is participating in the Gilead 1489 trial as well as three other trials using Bictegravir in both experienced and naive patients. The future is going to have a myriad of options to choose from. Bictegravir-containing regimens should be available commercially very soon.

A promising new nucleoside reverse transcriptase translocation inhibitor was described. Its current name is MK-8591. It is a very potent and has an extremely long half life. It is being studied for both HIV treatment and in prevention. Doravirine, a new non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor in development, has improved potency, a better resistance profile, and improved tolerability over other drugs in this class. Immunotherapies with monoclonal

and broad spectrum antibodies continue to be investigated for both prevention and treatment. VRC01 is the first such vaccine now in clinical trials. It was discovered from elite controllers of HIV. Vedolizumab, a monoclonal antibody, is being studied as part of HIV medication interruption therapy.

This Paris conference weighted heavily with discussion about HIV prevention. There were wvmore presentations on this topic than anything else. Daily use of Truvada (PrEP) continues to be the gold standard with more and more countries approving this therapy. 80,000 unique individuals have been prescribed Truvada between 2012 and 2015. It is a safe preventive option with tangible benefits and very small risks. Correct adherence to dosing is imperative for success.

There were several studies evaluating Truvada on demand, instead of daily. The HPTN 067 (HIV Prevention Treatment Network) trial included 3 different methods of administration. There was daily administration, time driven (twice a week and one dose post a sexual encounter), and event driven (one tablet of Truvada before sex and one tablet after) arms in the study. The conclusions of the HPTN 067 suggest that on demand therapy is a viable option. It concluded that the event driven arm is a reasonable approach for those having infrequent sex. It's a favorable approach in this group because fewer doses are required compared to daily use. The disadvantage for event driven therapy is that it requires sex planning and the availability of the medication at the time of need, so one would always have to be prepared. Also, timing in event driven dosing is a little more complicated. One should not take more than one dose in a two hour period. Success depends upon the post sexual dose to be taken in the event driven method. Surveys suggested that younger individuals, or those having frequent and/or multiple sexual encounters, preferred daily dosing over an on-demand dosing schedule.

The IPERGAY study evaluating intermittent PrEP dosing had the same conclusion on the effectiveness on intermittent therapy. Caution is advised because Truvada is currently approved only for daily dosing therapy in the United States and according to the World Health Organization. The European AIDS Clinical Society does include on demand PrEP in their guidelines. All recommendations still include

a comprehensive prevention approach and the use of condoms for HIV prevention. The rate of sexually transmitted diseases were high in all of these prevention trials.

The nice thing about the future of HIV prevention is that individuals will have a variety of modalities to choose from. The HPTN 077 is studying the previously described Cabotegravir which involves an injection every 8 or 12 weeks for prevention. Phase 3 trials are underway to answer the questions about the use of this drug for prevention.

The SLAP (Sustained Long Acting Protection from HIV) study investigated reservoir implants using rods that osmotically control the release of HIV medication for prevention. The drug mentioned previously, MK-8591, is being investigated for use in this way. Medicated intravaginal rings and rectal lubes are also being studied for HIV prevention.

Individual choice for prevention will be important to meet diverse needs. Stigma still remains an important barrier. Many individuals are ashamed to ask their providers for this preventive treatment. Other providers may lack the knowledge to prescribe PrEP or take a detailed sexual history to determine who is at risk. Some individuals, for whatever reason, do not perceive themselves as being high-risk. Messaging and distribution for PrEP needs to be positively focused and simple. Peer support and education such as Adherence Clubs for PrEP may be of benefit. High-risk individuals choosing PrEP usually add Truvada to their own particular strategy that they are already practicing.

The consensus of scientific data presented at the conference shows that an HIV-infected individual who is being successfully treated, by having an undetectable viral load, is virtually non-infectious to their partners. This is described as treatment as prevention.

In summary, an individualized approach is a key and necessary challenge. Dual therapy is a realistic option. The treatment pipeline has newer agents that are being investigated. HIV treatment is more than simply obtaining an undetected viral load. PrEP not only has transmission benefits, but psychosocial ones as well. PrEP can reduce and replace fear, improve quality of life, remove guilt, and increase intimacy; all of which may be liberating as well.

Next year's conference will be in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

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**INTERNATIONAL AIDS SOCIETY
CONFERENCE UPDATE**

Presenter: Dr. Paul Benson

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native engager

Tori Amos Talks Gay Mentors, Her D.C. 'Underworld' and Not Being Politically Distracted By the 'Master Showman'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Tori Amos' mind is one of the greatest wonders of the music world. For over three decades, via an oeuvre as unpredictable as the muses that guide her, that very mind has been a trove of lyrical salvation and a divine mélange of eccentricities, insight, imagination and, as I discovered during our illuminating exchange, even "Mean Girls" references.

Before last year's political turn of events, the piano virtuoso took a summer road trip through North Carolina's Smoky Mountains to reconnect to her familial roots, setting into motion her nature-influenced 15th studio album, "Native Invader." Featuring some of her best music in years, as influenced by these divisive times and a speech-crippling stroke her mother suffered in January, the album's emotional core is resilient and healing despite "a cluster of hostile humans who side with their warlords of hate," as she brazenly sings, calling for us to "rehumanize."

Amos, 54, took me to every remote corner of her meandering mind during our recent interview, name-dropping everyone from Persephone to Regina George and the two gay men who helped transform her into *the* Tori Amos. But there's more: "the new invasion of the body snatchers," exercising to rap, being postmenopausal in 2017 America, the prospect of a Vegas show with hot male dancers and also Washington D.C., the "underworld" where she launched



Photo: Paulina Otylie Surys

her career, unknowingly performing for political players who would set the stage for crucial issues Amos and the entire country are now facing.

I am feeling grateful to have gone to bed the last few nights with "Native Invader" being the last thing I heard.

Oh, good. I'm glad it took you to dreamland.

And it's very possible it will be taking me to dreamland for the next few years, if you know what I'm saying.

(Laughs) Well, the "Dream King" is on there too in "Mary's Eyes," so everybody can go to dreamland.

You talk about being a "safe place" on the album's comforting second song, "Wings," and since the beginning of your career, you have been that safe place for many gay men, myself included.

Well, they were a safe place for me when I was 13. Then, when I was 16 I just happened to work at a place not far from the White House, which

is very core to "Native Invader" because I cut my teeth professionally playing in the belly of the beast in Washington, if you see what I mean. Lobbyists, people in different departments; it was the Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, and so on and so forth. You gotta figure that anybody in Congress might have been rolling through those doors. That's just the establishments that I was working in when I was 16. But anyway, my point to you is... there was a point. What

were we talking about?

You were talking about safe places, and you said that as a teenager, the gay community was your safe place.

Yes, there was one waiter that was a bit of a... I won't say a bully, but he was one of those guys at the time, because you've gotta imagine I was 16, so what was that, 1979? So, you know, longer hair, mustache. He was always pushing me to think about all the bad things that could happen and his foil was this beautiful gay man called Joey. Joey was just the most supportive kind, and he would admonish Ray and Ray was macho. He was a macho gay guy, but probably in very protective mode.

So did Joey make you feel special?

Joey taught me how to sit. Joey taught me how to walk. Joey walked me through my crushes. And Ray would be chiding all the time and explaining why I would never get that guy. Ray made Regina George look like Julie Andrews in "The Sound of Music."

What song did your gay audiences most connect with then?

They would ask me for all kinds of things. It was more about them realizing I needed training. Not with Joey and Ray. I was kind of a pro by then. But at 13, when I was in (a gay bar called) Mr. Henry's in Georgetown, which was across town, that was sacred. That wasn't the Congress set, although you have to figure some head of something was sneaking in there (laughs). (But the gay community) was more about, "Oh, you need to learn that." They would say, "OK, learn these songs and come back next week," because they were helping me fill out my repertoire. They were really pushing me on more popular songs. I had Joni Mitchell covered. I had Elton John covered. I had The Beatles covered. So, they were asking me for things that I didn't have in my repertoire. I can't remember now (which songs), but I do remember them giving me

INFO

Tori Amos

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loads of requests for the next week and then I would go and learn them all and then they'd give me more.

And not much has changed in that regard.

(Laughs) Yes, yes. *Nothing* has changed!

Can you tell me about the conversations you were having with people in the LGBTQ community that led to the songs on "Native Invader"?

I will tell you specifically what was going on with the people that I know who are a part of the LGBTQ community, but there were messages coming through friends of friends – acquaintances and then friends – because Putin is not the only one with a back channel on planet Earth. You with me? So, that means somebody who might be a civil servant or somebody who might be working in the intelligence community or somebody who might be a part of the science community will get to somebody who will get to somebody whose mother will then get to somebody who gets to me. So that's how it works. Does Tori understand that this is going on? Does she understand the super PACs? Does she understand that this movement has been going on since 1980 when one of the Koch brothers was running on a ticket as a vice president against Reagan and then clearly the penny dropped that one doesn't need to be president to be one of the American oligarchs that is possibly running Washington? I didn't come up with this myself! I'm a piano player! I mean, come on, everybody knows, I'm a conduit. (Laughs)

Going back to the messages from people in the LGBTQ community: How did those influence "Native Invader"?

One of the things that I was being told by somebody who is very much in that community was that (he was being) consumed by the energy that was out there – an attacking, bullying energy. And the news cycle. This person got to me personally and sat me down and said, "I'm losing friends." I said, "To what?" This was a specific person, a gay man, and he said to me, "I'm losing them to a force. It's terrifying because it's zombie-like." And it wasn't funny. There were tears in the eyes. It wasn't a zombie joke. You know, everybody likes a good zombie joke. (My daughter) Tash being one of them. But this wasn't funny. And I said, "OK, this is fascinating, this is a different invasion of the body snatchers." And there were, again, tears rolling down his face. He said, "I can't explain it." I said, "It's like they're being emotionally cannibalized – is that correct?"

He said, "OK, keep going."

How did that particular conversation work itself into the album?

It's a thread, not a song, through the album.

Had you ever considered a more direct approach to the current political landscape you're addressing on this album, perhaps in the same vein as "Yo George" from "American Doll Posse"? Why not just call this album or a song on the album "Yo Donald"?

No, because that would be weak. Let's walk this through. The great thing about being non-reactive, postmenopausal, which cannot be possessed until you have experienced it, you absolutely cannot get this one thing; all the younger women cannot have this with all the money in the world, do you know why? Because they bleed. When you sit at the metaphorical fire, Chris, and you don't bleed, what is it? It's called containment. That is the state of being.

The issues are not about one name. The issues are about a movement and the master showman is a distraction. Don't give it the energy. There are no conundrums there. You don't need quantum physics, which I don't know, but I like the phrase. "Alice In Quantumland" this is not. There is no mystery.

The best thing that the community can do: treat it with neutrality. Don't give it energy. Apply your energy elsewhere and do your research, because there are things going on around us with Democracy. You have to ask yourself, little by little, what's going on at the EPA, what's going on at the Department of the Interior – that's far more interesting.

You offer far more light than one might imagine from an album that's rooted in the chaos of our current political climate. I wonder how the overall mood of the album took shape and whether you ever felt like you had to stop yourself from going too dark.

I think "Climb" is dark. "Climb" is probably the darkest place, and that is a very dark place.

What do you think an album about this past election would've sounded like if Tori of "Boys for Pele" or "From the Choirgirl Hotel" wrote it?

Well, look, those albums can be played and are relevant now. "Pele" is relevant now because "Pele" is railing against the patriarchy, but "Native Invader" is invading concepts like freedom that have been hijacked by some of these super PACs, by these think tanks. Again, don't get distracted by people who are mainly in the news cycle all the time. You've gotta understand, if for some reason they walked away and decided to just not be in that position anymore, you still have a movement to deal with. These seeds go back. (Supreme Court Justice Neil) Gorsuch's mother was head of the EPA in the '80s. Not that he can't be a fair judge, not that he didn't learn, not that he doesn't have integrity – he might have integrity. But what

Continued on pg. 16

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“The issues are not about one name. The issues are about a movement and the master showman is a distraction. Don't give it the energy. There are no conundrums there. You don't need quantum physics, which I don't know, but I like the phrase. 'Alice In Quantumland' this is not. There is no mystery.”



► Tori Amos

Continued from p. 15

love to have, you know, hot male dancers.

Ha! I would love for you to have hot male dancers.

Maybe that's the Vegas show.

You've been known to cover some classics on tour but also some modern pop, like Rihanna's "We Found Love." Are there any pop songs from the last few years you think might fit the vibe of this tour?

Yeah, maybe. And maybe I need to look at some rap. It's my niece – my niece is Kelsey (Dobyns) and any time we do a little work out she makes me do it to rap. I have no idea what any of the rap is that I've heard. I've heard all kinds of rap. She's throwing these beats down and I don't know what I'm listening to.

Are you a fan of any of it?

No. I'm not a fan of rap. All the rappers know I'm not a fan. However, I can look at the rap and say, "This is well produced," and put my producer hat on and say, "I like the flow of this, the language; I like the rhythm. Yeah, I'm into it." But I'm a melody person. So, I appreciate the form and I respect it, but I want Freddie (Mercury). I want a melody. I want "Killer Queen." I want "Somebody to Love."

And as we've established, hot male dancers.

And hot male dancers! I'm a flaming queen, what can I say?

we have to understand is the EPA was big corp in the '80s. I was playing piano bar for those people as a teenager and Joey and Ray would say, "Do you know who so and so is?" And I'd say, "What? What are you talking about?" I didn't know at the time that I was playing for some of these players that planted that seed. I was right in the middle of it all. It's sort of like Persephone. I was living the Persephone myth. I had no idea I was in the underworld.

Switching gears to your tour in support of "Native Invader," which of the rare "girls" are itching to be played this go 'round?

Yeah, that's fair enough. I haven't figured it out yet, and if you guys and ladies have any ideas then it's always welcome, because I think it's gonna be very collaborative this tour. I think it'll be an exchange of ideas and building. Every night will be different. When I'm alone I can really do that; there's flexibility to it. Also, I really don't know for how much longer I can hold a one-woman show. It's really demanding. The physicality is beyond explaining, to myself. But it gives me a flexibility. And these times – things are happening every day that I need to be able to throw out a whole show and do a whole different one, if need must.

No more one-woman shows?

I'm talking about a one-woman show. I'm not talking about not performing. I would

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Kaig Lightner. Photo: Gerard Ungerman of Respectful Revolution

The OutField

The First Question Kaig Lightner Was Asked After Coming Out as Trans Will Surprise You

BY DAN WOOG

As it does with so many youngsters, sports saved Kaig Lightner. Soccer, basketball, volleyball, softball – all gave him a place to be himself. On the fields, courts and diamonds of suburban Seattle, Lightner found a sense of purpose. He gained confidence. He learned skills. And he let out frustration and anger.

Lightner faced more than the usual growing-up pains. At age 8 – when Lightner’s parents “forced” him into a Peppermint Patty softball program, and he discovered a passion – he was a she.

Redmond was an affluent, very white neighborhood, Lightner recalls. There was little diversity – certainly none of the sexuality kind.

“I was a sporty, athletic, masculine-type girl. So I was labeled a tomboy,” Lightner says.

That was OK at first. But in junior and senior high school, teasing and bullying ran rampant.

“I was constantly asked, ‘Are you

a boy or a girl?’” he says. At first, he replied, “I’m a girl!” Or he did not answer.

But in fifth grade, he became obstinate. “What do you think?” he retorted.

“I knew internally I was a boy,” Lightner says. “But I was too scared to say it out loud.”

By the end of high school, the politics of soccer – his primary sport – turned him off. He did not play anything his first year at the University of Washington. But he felt a void in his life. He met a member of the school’s women’s rowing team in class, and decided to give the new sport a go.

He had no idea the Huskies were the top team in the country.

Tryouts for the women’s program were open – and grueling. Anyone who made it through three months was on the team.

“It was the hardest thing I’ve ever done,” Lightner says. “I was four or five inches shorter than anyone else.” But the “immense feeling of flying on the water with eight other people” hooked him.

After graduating in 2003 with a degree in philosophy, Lightner looked for a job in his first love: soccer coaching. He could not find full-time work, however. He was adrift.

Two years later he moved to Portland. It was a new city; he knew no one. “I could be anybody,” he says. He used male pronouns.

But when he was offered a coaching position with a competitive club, he reverted to female pronouns – and his birth name.

Being two different people, in his personal and professional lives, proved daunting. Two years later – at age 27 – Lightner realized he needed to transition. He began taking testosterone, and left the club.

In 2012 – with the process well underway – Lightner found a way to meld his love for soccer with his desire to affect change by offering underserved youngsters a chance to enjoy the same athletic opportunities he’d had as a kid. He founded Portland Community FC. No one is turned away for lack of funds.

The club grew to eight teams,

ages 5 to 17. PCFC fields boys and girls squads, though gender does not matter: There’s an open acceptance policy for LGBTQ players, coaches, staff and families.

So while it is not surprising that Lightner is open about his status as a trans man, it was still international news when he came out to his players. That’s because his announcement – after training, in a drizzle – was taped on his cellphone, and posted on Facebook.

Lightner had thought for a while about saying something publicly. The timing never seemed right. Yet after meeting Eric Lueshen – a former University of Nebraska football player, and the co-founder of LGBT SportSafe – at a conference in Washington, D.C., Lightner knew the time was right.

It was a low-key talk. Matter-of-factly he said, “We ask a lot of you guys to show up and be yourselves, (but) I haven’t totally shared with you something about myself that’s important.... I am transgender. What that means is ... I was born a girl and I grew up playing soccer as a girl.

And that’s not something I share with players or people in the sports world very often because it’s not an easy thing.”

He reminded his players that many of them probably heard comments about their own skin color, “or the way you talk or the country your parents are from. That’s really similar to how I got treated as a kid, too.”

Lightner’s video got picked up by media outlets around the world. But – in vivid testimony to how far young people have come in their acceptance of trans issues – many news stories focused not on Lightner’s coming out, but on the first question he got.

“How old are you?” one boy asked.

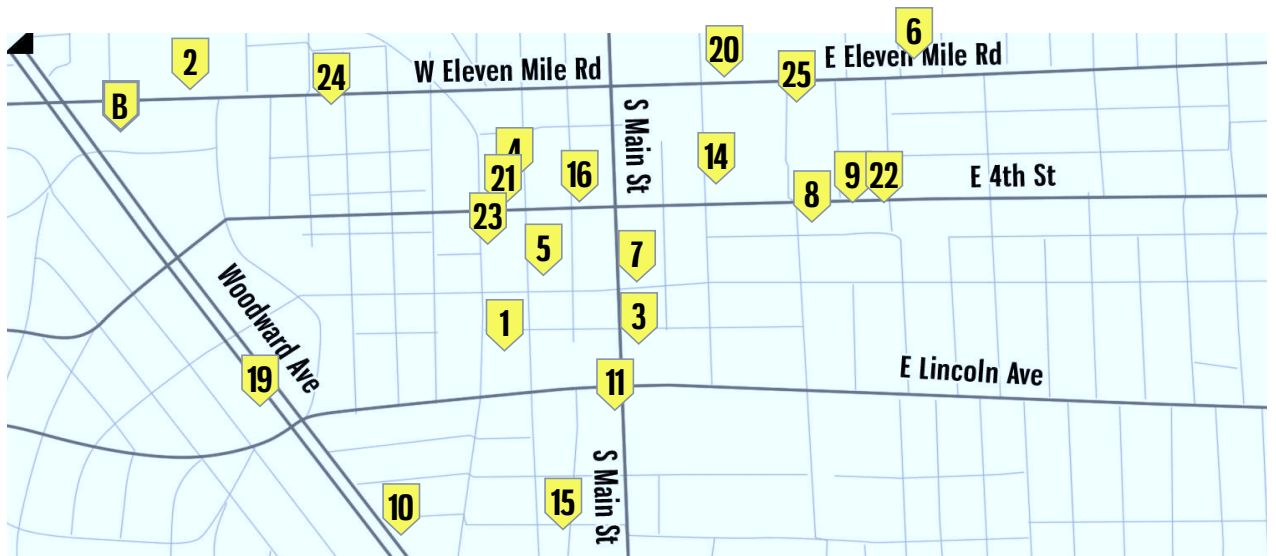
Kaig Lightner is 36.

Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach and gay activist. His latest book is “We Kick Balls: True Stories from the Youth Soccer Wars.” He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.

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Arts, Beats and Eats Celebrates 20 Years

BY BTL STAFF

The 20th annual Ford Arts, Beats & Eats this year presented by Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in downtown Royal Oak brings more than 200 local and national musical acts on nine stages.

Jon Witz, Ford Arts, Beats & Eats producer, said \$100,000 over and above previous years' entertainment budget was spent to "ensure we offer the most premier schedule of musical performers in the festival's history."

Some of those acts include the B-52's, Candlebox, 311, Grand Funk Railroad, the Wallflowers and George Clinton and the P-Funk All-Stars.

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Festival hours are Sept. 1-3 from 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. and Sept. 4 from 11 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Admission is \$3 until 3 p.m., \$5 after 3 p.m. and \$7 after 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. It's free to enter until 5 p.m. and \$7 after on Friday only. All of the concerts are free with VIP upgrades available.

For more information and a full entertainment lineup, visit <http://artsbeatseats.com/>.



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AIDS Walk 2016 participants. BTL File photo: Jason A. Michael

Sept. Brings AIDS Walk Detroit, Now in 27th Year

AIDS Walk Detroit will take place on Sunday, Sept. 17 at the Royal Oak Farmers Market starting at 8:30 a.m. Organizers are hoping to raise over \$225,000 in an effort to help fund local agencies work. Known as the largest grassroots HIV/AIDS fundraiser in Michigan, this year's event will once again be presented by Delta Airlines. Since its inception, more than \$4 million dollars has been raised to do the important work providing access to high quality, life-extending care, free from stigma and discrimination.

Both at-risk youth and other people living with HIV can benefit greatly from these kinds of fundraising events. In 2015, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services estimated that 18,800 people in the state were living with HIV. Of all teens diagnosed in the last five years, 82 percent are African-American, of which 64 percent are gay or bisexual, according to the MDHHS.

Help the Walk, Volunteer at Arts, Beats and Eats

With Labor Day Weekend, comes the fabulous Arts, Beats and Eats festival where local organizations like AIDS Walk Detroit can volunteer, build awareness and raise money for the walk taking place Sept. 17. Volunteer opportunities were still open at presstime. All volunteers will receive a wristband for entry for the entire three-day event and a parking pass for the day they volunteer. Call Carissa at 248-399-9255.

After Labor Day, a walk information meeting will be held on Sept. 6 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Contact info@aidswalkdetroit.org or 248-399-9255 for more information if you are interested in attending.

Royal Oak Named One Of America's Safest Cities

BY BTL STAFF

Oakland County is the safest county in Michigan, according to Alarms.com. Six Oakland County communities made the National Council for Home Safety and Security's website top 100 safest cities.

The list, according to a Patch article looks at violent crime and property crime per 100,000 residents, among other factors. According to the FBI, violent crime has been decreasing over the past 10 years — some 16.5 percent from 2006 to 2015 — while property crime rates continue to gradually fall by about 2 percent per year.

Alarms.com reports that police have improved their methods for monitoring troubled areas and having more outreach. "These methods help to prevent crime and encourage people to work to become model citizens," the website says in introducing its list.

Here's a look at the Oakland County communities on the Alarms.com safest cities 2017 list:

Waterford Township (58) - 139 violent crimes per 100,000; 1,286 property crimes per 100,000

Novi (48) - 52 violent crimes per 100,000; 1,286 property crimes per 100,000

Farmington Hills (44) - 92 violent crimes per 100,000; 1,142 property crimes per 100,000

Royal Oak (38) - 87 violent crimes per 100,000; 1,110 property crimes per 100,000

Rochester Hills (13) - 34 violent crimes per 100,000; 786 property crimes per 100,000

West Bloomfield (9) - 77 violent crimes per 100,000; 684 property crimes per 100,000

For more information, visit <https://www.alarms.com/top-100-safest-cities-in-america-2017>.

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Art On Tap

The Flint Institute of Arts presents the 10th Annual Art on Tap Beer Tasting from 6-9 p.m. on Sept. 23 in partnership with John P. O'Sullivan Distributing, Inc. & Fabiano Brothers, Inc. Enjoy more than 100 craft beers, delicious cuisine from The Palette Café, live music by the Genesee Ramblers, a silent auction and incredible glassblowing demonstrations. Michigan Hot Glass will create some exquisite pieces as a preview of what the FIA will be unveiling in early 2018 with the grand opening of the eagerly awaited Glass Blowing Studio and Demonstration Space. Tickets are \$35-50 for the event at the FIA, 1120 E. Kearsley St. For more information, visit <https://flintarts.org/events/special-events/beer-tasting>.



Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Aug. 31

Backpack Drive for Ozone House's Education Project 7 p.m. Bring along school supplies to donate. Alley Bar will donate 10 percent of sales to Ozone House. Free admission. Ozone House, 112 W. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor**. (734) 662-8757. www.facebook.com/events/1400123220103600/

Gender Non-Conformists 7 p.m. A social and support group for genderqueer, genderfabulous, transgender, gender-exploring folks and all those who transgress gender binaries. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Trivia with Terry 8 p.m. Aut Bar, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. www.autbar.com

Karaoke Night 10 p.m. 18+, free cover 21+ Lipgloss Productions, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. www.spiraldancebar.com
Saturday, Sep. 2

LGBTQ with HPV 6 p.m. Support, discussion and activity group for anyone with HSV1/2 and HPV. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. haymer@goaffirmations.org www.goaffirmations.org

Men's Discussion Group 6 p.m. Labor Day weekend picnic Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Sunday, Sep. 3

LGBTQ Support Group 5 p.m. Unitarian

Universalist Congregation, 6726 Center Road, **Traverse City**. www.tcpolestar.org/

Pride AA Weekly Meeting 6 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. www.outfrontkzoo.org

Pride NA Weekly Meeting 7 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. www.outfrontkzoo.org

Monday, Sep. 4

13th Annual BOLDfest Featuring singer/songwriters Ferron and Heather Bishop. Bold Old(er) Lesbians and Dykes, **Vancouver**. 604-253-7189. info@boldfest.com www.boldfest.com

Alcoholics Anonymous 5:45 Serenity 5:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Lambda Group Open LGBT AA Meeting 5:30 p.m. Lambda Group, 341 Washington St., **Traverse City**. www.tcpolestar.org/

Brotherhood of Support 6 p.m. For transmasculine identified people ages 16 and older. Group is affiliated with FtM Detroit. FtM A2 Ypsi, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. www.jimtoycenter.org/

Sexual Addicts Anonymous 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Transition 2.0 7 p.m. Facilitated by Hannah Hartley, this group is focused on the art of transition. Integrate safely and positively into society. Open to all.

Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

UNPLUGGED Social and Support Group 7 p.m. First Monday of every month. For those shunned, disfellowshipped or excommunicated from their religion, family or friends for being LGBTQ. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. haymer@goaffirmations.org www.goaffirmations.org

Tuesday, Sep. 5

Talk Tuesday 6 p.m. Erin Knott from Equality Michigan will help the community understand civic engagement 101, how to talk to elected officials and use the media to impact change. LGBT Detroit, 20025 Greenfield Road, **Detroit**. 313-397-2127. www.lgbtdetroit.org

Because We Are Worth It (Sex Addicts Anonymous LGBTQ Meeting) 6:30 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. www.jimtoycenter.org

Coming Out Together 7 p.m. A confidential discussion group covering all aspects of coming out and the effects it may have on your life. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

LGBTQ in Uniform Support Group 7 p.m. Meets the first Tuesday of every month. Open to current and former police, fire, emergency medical personnel and military. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Men's Group Meeting 7 p.m. Perceptions, 123 N. Michigan Ave., **Saginaw**. www.perceptionsmi.org/

Editor's Pick MI Response to Hate Conference

This conference at 219 S. Harrison Road brings together leaders in federal, state and local law enforcement; federal, state and local government; education; criminal justice; victim services agencies and non-profit organizations to discuss and develop community responses to hate and bias incidents. Register online at <http://gaybe.am/VN>.



Narcotics Anonymous 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Support Group for Parents of Transgender Youth 7 p.m. Facilitated by Lisa Goyette, social worker, trans activist and ally, and proud parent of a trans teen son. Stand with Trans, 2515 Joslyn Court, **Lake Orion**. 248-330-8493. www.standwithtrans.org www.standwithtrans.org

Transgender Life Support 7 p.m. An open discussion group for people identifying as transgender and their allies. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Young Adult Group 7 p.m. For young people ages 18-24 Grand Rapids Pride Center, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. www.grpride.org

Wednesday, Sep. 6

10th Annual MI Response to Hate Conference 8 a.m. Register online. Speakers and workshop details online also. Michigan Alliance Against Hate Crimes, 219 S. Harrison Road, **East Lansing**. <http://gaybe.am/Ja>

Senior Koffee Klatch 1 p.m. A discussion and networking group for people 45 years of age and older. Various discussion topics, social outings and potlucks are incorporated throughout the year. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Students Affirming Youth 4 p.m. A secular group for youth in grades 8-12, which functions as a community-based gay-straight alliance. Email for group details. Perceptions, 403 S. Jefferson, **Saginaw**. atjsteelouchart@gmail.com www.perceptionsmi.org/

Dykes on Bikes 6:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**.

248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

LGBTQ Support Group 7 p.m. Connect on Facebook at @LGBTQSupportDownriver Beaumont Taylor Teen Health Center, 26650 Eureka Road, Suite B, **Taylor**. 734-942-2273 Ext. 23.

Youth Group 7 p.m. For youth ages 13-17 Grand Rapids Pride Center, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. www.grpride.org

Support group for parents and guardians of LGBTQ people 7:30 p.m. Grand Rapids Pride Center, 25 Sheldon Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. www.grpride.org

Thursday, Sep. 7

45+ Club 12 p.m. Activity and community group for persons age 45 and up. Play games and socialize in the Affirmations' Game Room. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. haymer@goaffirmations.org www.goaffirmations.org

Editor's Pick

A Night of Stars with Tennessee Williams

In what has become a Slipstream tradition, September brings the world premiere of an original play, "A Night of Stars with Tennessee Williams" by Maxim Vinogradov. Asking if he lived the right life, Tennessee and his assistant guide the audience through the museum of his hazy mind, revisiting lovers, siblings, and stars upon stars. The show runs now through Sept. 17, Thursdays-Saturdays at 8 p.m. and on Sundays at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance only and available via www.slipstreamti.com or by emailing InsideTheSlipstream@gmail.com. Slipstream Theatre Initiative is located at 460 Hilton in Ferndale.



Connections Youth Group 6 p.m. For youth ages 13-18 OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. www.outfrontkzoo.org

Foster Care and Adoption Orientation 6 p.m. Orchards Children's Services is seeking adults from all counties to provide temporary care in their home for children ages 0 to 17 for foster care or independent living. Financial reimbursement, training and support system provided. Orchards Children's Services, 24901 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 601, **Southfield**. 248-530-5370. smarks@orchards.org www.orchards.org

LGBTQ Networking Group 6 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. www.outfrontkzoo.org

LGBTQ Youth Meeting 6 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. michael@kgirc.org www.outfrontkzoo.org

The League of Extraordinary Genders 7 p.m. Transgender support group OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. info@outcenter.org www.outcenter.org

Transgender Support Group 7 p.m. Perceptions, 815 N. Grant, **Bay City**. www.perceptionsmi.org/

Friday, Sep. 8

Department of Victim Services Open Office Hours 2 p.m. Contact Serena Johnson, lead advocate, for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins welcome. Equality Michigan, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. 313-537-7000 Ext 115. sjohnson@equalitymi.org www.grpride.org

The Future of Sex Offender Registration and Notification: In Michigan and Beyond 4 p.m. RSVPs via email are encouraged. A conversation involving a diverse group of policymakers, advocates, law enforcement, and academics, including State Senator Rick Jones (R-Eaton County and Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee) and ACLU Political

Director Shelli Weisberg with Wayne Logan and J.J. Prescott. University of Michigan Law School, 625 S. State St., **Ann Arbor**. SORNevent@umich.edu

Saturday, Sep. 9

Smart Recovery 10 a.m. Smart Recovery offers people with any type of addiction a place to learn how to change unwanted behaviors through cognitive based methods. This is a non-12 step program, led by Smart Recovery trainers, and does not require abstinence. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Coming Out Over Coffee 10:30 a.m. A casual discussion group covering all aspects of coming out and the effects it may have on your life. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Health Care Town Hall 11 a.m. Michigan citizens will have the opportunity to have their questions answered and learn how to protect their health care. Oakland County Democratic Party, 38651 Woodward Ave., **Bloomfield Hills**. www.michigandems.com

Open LGBT AA Meeting 11 a.m. Grace Episcopal Church, 341 Washington St., **Traverse City**. www.tpolestar.org/

Friends and Families 12:30 p.m. Support group for friends and families of LGBTQ identifying persons. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. haymer@goaffirmations.org www.goaffirmations.org

Caregiving Resource Workshop 1 p.m. Please register by phone. Free event. Discuss nutrition, finances, veterans resources, exercise and fitness, and community resources. AARP and DMC, 3990 John R. Road, **Detroit**. 877-926-8300.

Alcoholics Anonymous Brownbaggers 1:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Men's Discussion Group 6 p.m. Topic: Leaders and role models - people who have inspired us Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Motor City Bears 6:30 p.m. A gay male, social and fund raising activity group for Bears and admirers, established in 1994. Meet and greet starts at 5:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Own Your Gender 7 p.m. For transgender, non-binary and gender and gender questioning people Grand Rapids Pride Center, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. www.grpride.org

GLBT AA 8 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. www.jimtoycenter.org

MUSIC & MORE

Dance

Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Cube "Salsa Dance Party" Tickets: \$15. Max M. Fisher Music Center, Music Box, 3711 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 9 p.m. Aug. 31. 3135765111. www.cubedetroit.org

Theater

A Night of Stars with Tennessee Williams Tickets: \$12. Slipstream Theatre Initiative, 460 Hilton Rd., Ferndale. Aug. 27 - Sep. 17. 313-986-9156. www.slipstreamti.com

The Revolutionists Michigan premiere by Lauren Gunderson. Four beautiful, bad-ass women lose their heads in this irreverent, girl-powered comedy set during the French Revolution. Theatre Nova, 410 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Sep. 17. 734-635-8450. www.theatrenova.org

ART 'N' AROUND

Affirmations "Remix Reframe: the Work of Aimee Michele Coldren" Opening reception Aug. 3 at 7 p.m. Pittman-Puckett Gallery, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Aug. 3 - Sep. 30. www.goaffirmations.org

DIA "Art of Rebellion: Black Art of the Civil Rights Movement" Explore powerful artworks by African American artists who formed collectives during the Civil Rights

Movement of the '60s and '70s. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. July 23 - Oct. 22. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Downtown Development Authority "Art & About" Every second Friday from June through October Downtown Berkley, 3338 Coolidge Hwy, Berkley. June 9 - Oct. 13. <http://gaybe.am/DG>

Lawrence Street Gallery "Sherry Adams Foster - Play of Light" Opening Reception is Sept. 8 from 6-9 p.m. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. Aug. 30 - Sep. 29. 248-544-0394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com



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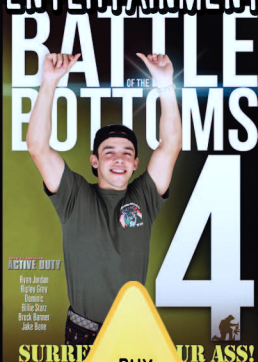
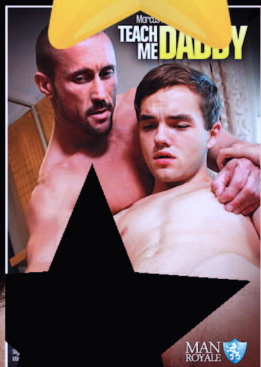


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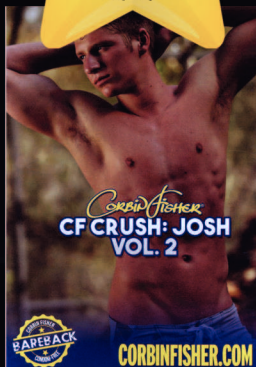
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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Lesbian sci-fi's Octavia Butler heads to TV

She died in 2006, but Octavia Butler's work lives on. The late lesbian sci-fi author was critically acclaimed during her lifetime – and posthumously awarded a place in the Science Fiction Hall of Fame – but now her MacArthur Fellowship-recognized genius is finally coming to television. You can thank the always-working Ava DuVernay (“13th,” “Selma”) for that one; the filmmaker is bringing Butler's 1987 novel “Dawn” to series with collaborators Victoria Mahoney (“Queen Sugar”) and Charles D.

King (“Fences”). Dawn is the first book in Butler's “Lilith's Brood” trilogy, and concerns a post-apocalyptic future that sees most of the human race eradicated, with the remainder stolen for breeding by an alien race. A black woman named Lilith Iyapo must navigate this dystopia and work to save humanity. Currently DuVernay is still at work on the big screen adaptation of “A Wrinkle In Time,” another sci-fi classic, so the project is still in its very early stages. Casting news – and any other attention-getting progress that hopefully steals thunder from “Confederate” – to follow.

'Dear White People' creator has 'Bad Hair'

“Dear White People” creator Justin Simien is making a horror movie about a weave. That's not a typo. A horror movie about a weave. As in fake hair attached to real hair. The comedic horror satire is currently called “Bad Hair,” and has no cast or shooting schedule yet, only this announcement, which is, honestly, plenty to give us all the pleasure we needed for the day. Set in 1989, at the height of the New Jack Swing trend in R&B music (think Bobby Brown, Paula Abdul, Pebbles, etc.), the story follows a young artist who, desperate to freshen up her hair game for the beauty demands of music videos, gets her first weave. Unfortunately, she quickly discovers that the new hair is haunted and has plans of its own that don't involve playing nice on the set of the latest A.I.B. Sure video. The price of being a video vixen, we guess. Anyway, dear Mr. Simien, please make this movie very quickly because we want to see it right now.

Shay Mitchell goes full-on Queen Bee for 'You'

Cast members from a couple of TV's hottest young adult soaps are teaming up for what promises to be yet another steamy outing. Shay Mitchell of “Pretty Little Liars” and “Gossip Girl”'s Penn Badgley will be joined by “Once Upon a Time” co-star Elizabeth Lail to form the love triangle at the heart of gay producer/creator Greg Berlanti's latest exercise in sexy twentysomething drama, “You.” The premise for this show with the maddeningly vague title involves a brilliant young man (Badgley) who uses technology to make the woman of his dreams fall for him. (How,



Justin Simien. Photo: KathClick

exactly? Every time we're on Twitter a brilliant young woman is dragging some dork for trying that very thing.) Meanwhile, Mitchell's character plays the boss of her friendship circle, rivaling Lail for this allegedly brilliant young man's attention. It sounds kind of goofy, but we're going to hope it's a satire about the toxicity of heterosexuality and gender roles. And if it's not, we'll probably watch it anyway. We like hot people.

Gurl, Trixie Mattel and Katya are getting their own show

The spinoff-ification of “RuPaul's Drag Race” is picking up steam, and not a moment too soon. These dark days call for more and more drag queens to right the wrongs of politics and culture, and that's where Trixie Mattel and Katya Zamolodchikova come in. The “Drag Race” alums already host a World of Wonder-produced YouTube series called “UNHhhh” and it's as delightfully weird as it is format-less and scattershot. To take this team to the next level of pop culture domination, then, would require a network that fully understands the appeal of format-less and scattershot. Enter Viceland, a network whose lineup includes a program where rapper Action Bronson smokes weed and watches “Ancient Aliens,” and it is there that Trixie and Katya have found their next home. The “UNHhhh” way of life is heading to something currently known as “The Trixie & Katya Show,” on which nobody knows exactly what till transpire. What we do know, though, is that it kicks off this November and that Peak TV is about to peak even harder.

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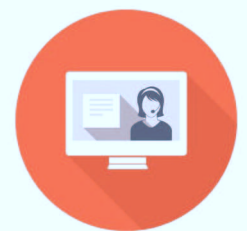
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Put These 5 LGBT Events on Your Bucket List Before the Sun Sets on Summer '17

BY MIKEY ROX

Have you ticked off all the boxes on your super-gay summer checklist? Before you paste it into your scrapbook and start packing away the tanks and tanning oil, take a look at these last-minute activities to keep the final few weeks of lazy days fun and fancy free.

Book your trip to New Orleans' Southern Decadence

What started as a small party among a group of 40 to 50 friends in 1972, Southern Decadence has expanded over the ensuing decades into a cultural phenomenon recognized by the LGBT community worldwide. More than 200,000 revelers attended last year's event (which boosted the City of New Orleans' economy by \$215 million; let's hear it for the pink dollar!), and this year's hyper-sexed Mardi Gras-like festivities over Labor Day weekend promise even more debauchery. You won't miss a single beat with accommodations at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside and its "Experience New Orleans" package, which promises proximity to the high-spirited parade and a welcome package of masks and beads, King Cake martinis at Public Belt Lounge, "Revelry Recovery Breakfast" at Le Croissant, and complimentary access to the property's 90,000-square-foot Health Club (where sinners and saints are welcome).



See indie gay film "Beach Rats" at a theater near you

Director Eliza Hittman's second feature film, "Beach Rats," premiered at this year's Sundance Film Festival in January, and it's been making its rounds on the festival circuit ever since. Holding firm with a solid, deserving 75-percent "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes, "Beach Rats" focuses on one summer in the life of Frankie, whose volatile home life in Brooklyn, N.Y., finds him juggling time with his new girlfriend and the older men he's meeting online. The film will release nationwide, however limitedly, on Aug. 25, which means there's still time to

round up all your Grindr hoes and reserve a row at a theater near you.

Check into Camp No Counselors' LGBTQ & Friends Weekend

Adult summer camps have been trending for the past few summers, and they're expanding in popularity every year by segmenting weekends to cater to specific demographics. Camp No Counselors – featured on "Shark Tank," if you're a fan of the show – is dipping its proverbial toe in the homo pond at its Los Angeles outpost this fall during its LGBTQ & Friends weekend, Oct. 6 to 9. Fill your days with memorable sleep-away camp activities from when

you were a kid like hiking, biking, arts and crafts, zip-lining, volleyball and more, all while making new friends and even a couple lovers while basking in the amenities of an all-inclusive backwoods experience. A portion of the weekend's proceeds (book now before it's sold out) will benefit Camp Brave Trails, a Southern Cali leadership camp for LGBTQ youth.

Get wet and wild at P-Town's Carnival Week

Provincetown, Massachusetts, is a must-visit annual summer destination for many LGBTs, but if you haven't popped in for its weeklong Carnival, well, it's time

to elevate your amateur status. Nearly 90,000 visitors will make the pilgrimage to this year's Gods and Goddesses-themed event to participate in life-parties, art fairs, a costume ball and more. If your proclivities lean a bit wetter and wilder, head to the Brass Key Guesthouse for its Poseidon's Playground pool party, featuring DJ Andy Morris and porn-star special guest Trenton Ducati.

Show your true colors at a late-season Pride

Officially, June is Pride Month (even though a certain president refuses to recognize it as such), but the truth is, Pride is celebrated all year long, figuratively and literally. If you missed the major festivals earlier this summer, make up for it by visiting other areas of the country (or international destinations) that are eager to welcome you with all the sunshine and rainbows. To find events and festivals near you – or, even better, someplace to which you can plan an adventure – check out GayPrideCalendar.com. Upcoming celebrations include Charlotte Pride (Aug. 26 and 27), Pride Vermont (Sept. 11) and Dallas Pride (Sept. 16 and 17).

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He splits his time between homes in New York City and the Jersey Shore with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.

Michigan's Definitive LGBTQ-Friendly Wedding & Anniversary Guide

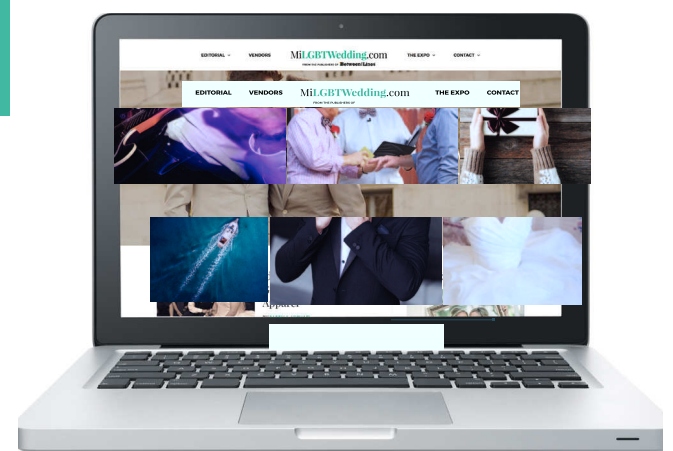
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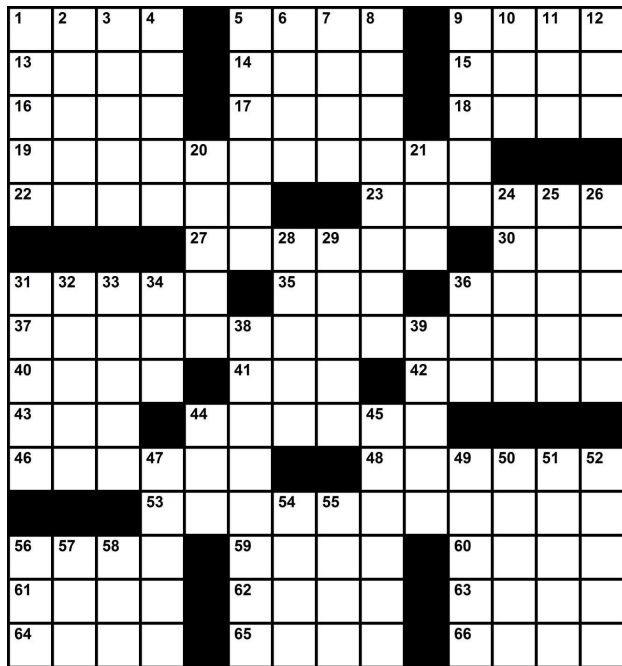
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Q Puzzle



- 40 You might see a polar bear there
 41 Lube brand
 42 Hoped for responses to come-ons
 43 TV character from beyond Uranus
 44 Gene Robinson's office
 46 Hoofing it
 48 Queer one, to straights
 53 Kids' TV network where 19-Across made many guest appearances
 56 Collette of "The Hours"
 59 "I Could ___ Danced All Night"
 60 Nathan of "Modern Family"
 61 Spread it on your muffin
 62 It's taken over in a coup
 63 Forbidden fruit site
 64 Part of a hard head
 65 Bear necessities
 66 Like Easter eggs
- 11 Burned item
 12 "Yes" in the navy
 20 Homes for Nigel Finch and Hart Crane?
 21 Sorbonne summer
 24 Praise for Lammies, e.g.
 25 "Straight Outta Compton" rapper
 26 Get decent
 28 Shrek and others
 29 Saw things
 31 BBC sitcom
 32 Late NASA astronaut Ride
 33 Pooh-pooh
 34 Just make, with "out"
 36 "Guys and Dolls" co-creator Burrows
 38 Imitated Samantha
 39 Universal donor
 44 "Unhappy" rapper Big ___
 45 Little hooters
 47 Optional item between meat and bun
 49 Sat on one's bottom
 50 Willing and able partner
 51 Gift recipient
 52 Erect
 54 Funny lady Clinton
 55 Wolfson of Freedom to Marry
 56 Lover that you can't get over
 57 Arena cry, to Lorca
 58 Name divider

Talk In the Nick of Time

Across

- 1 Haul ass
 5 Chocolate factory vessels
 9 School of Marcel Duchamp
 13 Poet Broumas
 14 Bygone pump name
 15 Word after "penis"
 16 Closet opening
 17 Cover for Adam's privates
 18 It goes before one's time

- 19 Nick's brother who just came out on Twitter
 22 Doug Mattis, for one
 23 Touched a vampire's heart, like Buffy
 27 Say "there, there" to
 30 Egypt and Syr., once
 31 Nice buns, for example
 35 Prefix with political
 36 Woodcarver's tool
 37 Nick's vocal group

Down

- 1 Bubbly drinks
 2 Dracula accessory
 3 Socrates' market
 4 Ouija alternative
 5 "Zipperless zipper"
 6 Cruising
 7 Russian ruler of old
 8 One dance style of Gregory Hines
 9 Messing of the "Will & Grace" reboot
 10 Singer DiFranco

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com



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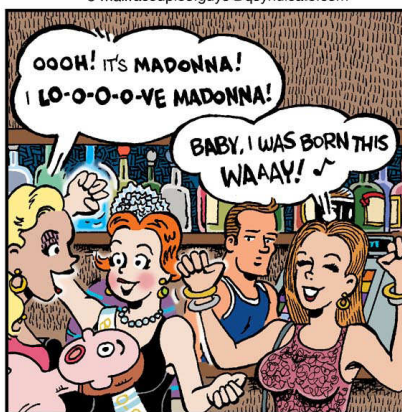
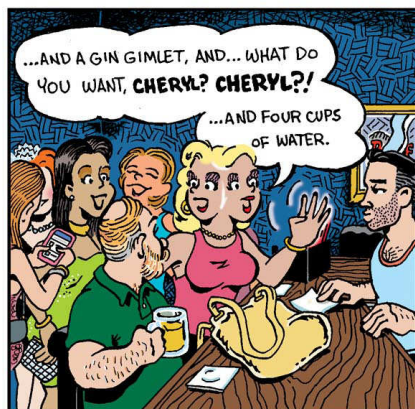
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We need 80 backpacks donated with supplies for youth at the Ruth Ellis Center

Backpacks for RUTH

Ruth Ellis Center provides short-term and long-term residential safe space and support services for runaway, homeless and at-risk gay, lesbian, bi-attractional, transgender and questioning youth.

Back Packs should be large enough for 15-18 year-olds

Items Specifically Requested Include
Men's and Women's Underwear, Bras and Socks!

Bring them to the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit
2441 Pinecrest, Ferndale, MI by August 31st.

248-399-7741





COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

LGBT Detroit Unveils New Outdoor Gathering Space

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

LGBT Detroit has created a new outdoor gathering space where area residents and visitors will be invited to weekly public forums and other community gatherings. The space – also dedicated to the performing arts – was made possible by a Detroit 67 Placemaking Grant.

Funds were used to clear debris and overgrowth in the space behind the organization's office building at 20025 Greenfield Rd. in Detroit and to install a garden and seating area.

Community Development Advocates of Detroit led the neighborhood placemaking grant process to provide support and funding for the creation of projects in each of the city's seven council districts. In keeping with the Detroit 67 Project, the theme for placemaking projects was Looking Back to Move Forward – engaging residents, highlighting possibility and reimagining the city.

Projects by community groups, block clubs, community development organizations and others working in Detroit's neighborhoods were selected through an application process led by a community review committee. Seven grants of \$7,000 each were awarded in April 2017 – with support from the PNC Foundation – to selected projects that envision creative public spaces and offer opportunities for people to come together.

"We recognize there is a place for people who resist and so we use this new space for the creative class to express themselves through the performing arts. We wish to celebrate unity and to defeat



Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit with Officer Dani Woods, LGBT Liaison with the Detroit Police Department and Tim Retzlaff, who teaches LGBT studies and U.S. history at Michigan State University, during a Talk Tuesday event on Aug. 8 to discuss the film 'Detroit' in the new outdoor gathering space. Photo courtesy of LGBT Detroit

policies that harm LGBT advancements," said Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit. "This was done with great support and leadership from people who were there during the uprising. We were able to find references of queer people who participated in this watershed moment in our history. Our dear friend and elder, Mr. (Marvin) Lee provided resources and data for us to use to become a recipient of this incredible honor."

For upcoming event information, visit the LGBT Detroit Facebook page www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit.

Addressing Tobacco Usage in the LGBTQ Community

BY IAN UNGER

I would like to draw attention to the tobacco usage in the LGBTQ community, particularly by our youth. While the numbers show that youth as a whole are not taking up smoking as much as in the past, the same cannot be said when looking specifically at youth that identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning.

These youth are being directly targeted by the tobacco companies, making it even harder for them to avoid smoking. Tobacco companies have been known to sponsor pride events, attempting to create new generations of smokers by targeting those who are at higher risk. LGBTQ youth also face higher rates of stress and depression, driving them toward unhealthy coping mechanisms. LGBTQ youth are twice as likely to start smoking as their straight counterparts, thanks to the targeted propaganda and lack of education about the needs of LGBTQ youth.

Smoking weakens the immune system and causes disease, yet the targeting of LGBTQ events has been going on since as early as 1991. At least 30 percent of LGBTQ youth report they have been bullied at least once

in a school year, and more than 25 percent have skipped school in the past month. Social stress factors are known to increase smoking rates, and with LGBTQ youth facing higher proportions of social stress, it can't be a surprise that they will turn to smoking – it is being presented, by the tobacco companies, as the "standard" way to cope for LGBTQ individuals, after all.

We need to take steps toward ending this epidemic and help keep our LGBTQ youth healthy and tobacco-free. There needs to be more education about this targeted marketing, and it needs to be addressed as a danger to our youth. LGBTQ youth deserve to have healthy alternatives to reduce stress and should not be bombarded by the cigarette companies which are taking advantage of their situations. It is time we as a community stand up for our youth, because they are being bullied by tobacco companies just like they are being bullied everywhere else.

Ian Unger is the Youth Program Coordinator at Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Rd. in Ferndale. Call 248-398-7105 or email iunger@goaffirmations.org for more information.



Ferndale City Councilman Dan Martin, Michelle Fox-Phillips with GNA, Gerry Carney, Monica Mills with Matrix Human Services, Susan Crocker and Rachel Crandall Crocker with TGMI, Julia Music chair of Ferndale Pride, Ferndale City Councilman Greg Pawlica and Andrew Shankles, fundraising chair with Ferndale Pride. Photo courtesy of Ferndale Pride

Ferndale Pride Distributes \$25,000 in Grants to LGBTQ Charities

BY BTL STAFF

Ferndale Pride distributed \$25,000 in grants – the most funding it ever has distributed in a single year – to five local LGBTQ charities at Monday night’s Ferndale City Council meeting.

A \$13,000 grant was awarded to the Ferndale Community Foundation, Ferndale Pride’s sponsoring organization. Four charities – Affirmations, the Gender-Identity Network Alliance, Matrix Human Services MAC Health and Transgender Michigan – received \$3,000 each in grants.

Since its establishment in 2011, Ferndale Pride, which presents an annual LGBTQ pride street fair in downtown Ferndale and related events, has distributed more than \$100,000 in unrestricted grants to local charities. This year’s festival was June 3.

“We are grateful for all of our festival sponsors and vendors, as well as the businesses and individuals who support our fundraisers throughout the year,” said Julia Music, chair of Ferndale Pride. “Their generosity allows us to provide a festival with no admission fee for attendees and to give back each year through these grants to local charities that better the lives of LGBTQ people.”

Music credited Andrew Shankles, fundraising chair, with helping Ferndale Pride to donate a record amount to charities this year.

“He really exceeded our expectations in his volunteer role,” said Music. “He organized record-breaking fundraisers that really brought the community out to give.”

The 2018 Ferndale Pride street fair will be June 2. For more information about Ferndale Pride, visit www.ferndalepride.com.

AT&T and HRC Team Up for Live Proud on Campus Campaign

#ATTLiveProud and #LiveProudScholar

BY BTL STAFF

AT&T is working with the Human Rights Campaign to help the next generation of LGBT and allied leaders continue the fight for equality with AT&T’s first-ever Live Proud on Campus campaign.

The campaign calls on college students 18 and over to submit a video pitch describing an LGBT-supportive project they’d like to see in place at their schools. The public will vote on 15 semi-finalist videos to choose six finalists, and HRC will choose three grand prize winners, which will be announced on LGBT Spirit Day, Oct. 16.

Students can enter by submitting their video pitch to att.com/liveproud where details, voting guidelines and rules are listed. Submissions are open through

Sept. 22.

The project must support the LGBT community and focus on LGBT equality, visibility or acceptance. The public can vote online for their favorite videos. No purchase necessary.

Three grand prize winners will receive a \$10,000 scholarship and a trip to Washington D.C. to attend the HRC National Dinner in October. They’ll also win \$2,500 to fund their on-campus project.

Grand prize winners will also experience a semester-long mentorship with HRC leadership. Mentors will help them plan their on-campus project during the spring 2018 semester.

Don’t forget to join the conversation on social media using #ATTLiveProud and #LiveProudScholar.

Find Your Tools of Engagement

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Find over 300 Non-Profit Listings Serving Michigan's LGBTQ Online @ www.pridesource.com

Editor's Note: This is a sampling of the hundreds of Michigan non-profits working with the LGBTQ community across the state. From time to time this print resource will emphasize different sectors as space permits.

AIDS/HIV

There are dozens of AIDS/HIV organizations and resources listed at www.PrideSource.com. Here are just three of them:

AIDS Walk Detroit

Contact info@aidswalkdetroit.org or 248-399-9255 for more information. The walk takes place this year on Sunday, Sept. 15, 8:30 a.m. at the Royal Oak Farmers Market

Macomb County STD Clinic

27690 Van Dyke
Warren, MI 48093
586-465-9217
<http://health.macombgov.org/Health-Programs-HPDC-HIVAIDSCounselingTesting>

Matrix Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

120 Parsons Street
Detroit, MI 48201
888-226-6366
248-545-1435
www.matrixhumanservices.org/programs/ryanwhite/

UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond

3011 W. Grand Blvd. Suite 230
Detroit, MI 48202
313-446-9800
www.miunified.org
Michigan HIV/STD Hotline
800-872-2437

Advocacy

Equality Michigan

19641 W. 7 Mile, Detroit, MI
313-537-7000
equalitymi.org
[Facebook.com/equalitymichigan](https://www.facebook.com/equalitymichigan)

Campus

Currently there are 19 organizations listed as active online at www.pridesource.com/yellow pages. The following are some in the southeast Michigan area:

U-M Ann Arbor

Spectrum Center
Spectrumcenter@umich.edu
<http://spectrumcenter.umich.edu>
734-763-4186

Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

gsc@oakland.edu
www.oakland.edu/gsc
248-370-4336

Eastern Michigan University

LGBT Resource Center
emich.edu/lgbtrc
734-487-4149

The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp

Wayne State JIGSAW

[Facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW)
wsujigsaw@gmail.com

Community Centers

Michigan has nine active LGBTQ community centers, with a tenth planned in Lansing. Here are three of them.

Jim Toy Community Center

Ann Arbor
www.jimtoycenter.org
www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter
or follow them on Twitter @JimToyCenter.
319 Braun Court
Ann Arbor, MI
734-995-9867

LGBT Detroit

Detroit
www.lgbtdetroit.org
www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit
or follow them on Twitter @LGBTDetroit.
20025 Greenfield Road
Detroit, MI
Phone: 313-397-2127

Affirmations

Ferndale
<http://goaffirmations.org>
www.facebook.com/Affirmations/
or follow them on Twitter @GoAffirmations.
290 W. Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, MI
248-398-7105

Legal

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

Jay Kaplan, Staff Attorney, LGBT Project
2966 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI
www.aclumich.org
313-578-6800

Fair Michigan

PO Box 6136
Plymouth, MI 48170
877-432-4764, 313-556-2300
fairmichigan.org
[Facebook.com/fairmichigan2016](https://www.facebook.com/fairmichigan2016)

Know Your Rights Project

Outlaws U-M student group
outlawslegal@gmail.com
734-995-9867

Older Adults

SAGE Metro Detroit

290 W. Nine Mile Rd. Ferndale, MI
313-578-6812
sagemetrodetroit.org
Facebook: SAGE Metro Detroit

Political

The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

[Facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP](https://www.facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP)

Stonewall for Revolution

www.facebook.com/stonewall4revolution

Professional Groups

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 32446
Detroit, MI 48232
detroitlgbtchamber.com
1-800-DET-LGBT

Ties Like Me

Professional networking events
third Weds. 5:30 - 8 p.m.
TiesLikeMe.org

Suits And The City

Lansing, MI
suitsandthecity@gmail.com
www.suitsandthecity.org

Transgender

FtM Detroit

<https://www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/>
ftmdetroit@gmail.com

FtM A2 Ypsi

ftmannarborypsilanti@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/ftma2ypsi/>

Transgender Michigan

23211 Woodward Ave.
Ferndale, MI
info@transgendermichigan.org
www.transgendermichigan.org
800-842-2954

Trans Sistas of Color Project

19641 W. 7 Mile Rd. in Detroit
313-537-7000 Ext 107
info@tscopdetroit.org
www.facebook.com/TSCOPD/

Youth

Ruth Ellis Center

77 Victor Street, Highland Park, MI 48203
info@ruthelliscenter.org
Facebook: Ruth Ellis Center
313-252-1950

Ozone House

102 N. Hamilton Street
Ypsilanti, MI
734-662-2265
734-662-2222

Stand With Trans

Farmington, MI
www.standwithtrans.org
248-739-9254



Find a digital version of PrideSource Magazine online under Our LGBTQ Yellow Pages

Find these resources online

- Adoption Services
- AIDS/HIV Hotlines
- AIDS/HIV Organizations
- Alzheimer's Association
- Animal Shelter
- Anti-Violence
- Archives/Collections
- Campus; Student and Alumni Groups
- Cancer Support Groups
- Choruses
- Community Centers
- Employee Resource Groups
- Families and Parents
- Foster Care
- Foundations and Funders
- Hotlines & Switchboards
- Labor Union
- Legal Organizations
- Museums
- Music Groups
- National Organizations
- Political Organizations
- Professional Organizations
- Religious & Spiritual
- Senior Living
- Seniors
- Social/Community Organizations
- Sports
- Substance Abuse
- Transgender Groups/Services
- Women's Health
- Youth Services

Get Listed, Promote Your Events

You can add or update any listing by going to www.PrideSource.com and clicking on Yellow Pages. Once you submit your listing, our staff will contact you to confirm your information.

You can add your event to the Pride Source Calendar online and in print by going to www.PrideSource.com and clicking on Calendar, then "Add Event." Send any press releases and announcements to editor@pridesource.com



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